

Mahdi refusing to give in to army demands

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi is refusing to give in to demands from the military for reforms and a new government, a Khartoum newspaper reported Friday.

The Sudan Times daily said Mahdi had offered only conciliatory statements since the military gave him and head of state Ahmad Al Mirghani a memorandum with a one-week ultimatum Wednesday.

Newspapers and diplomats say the prime minister has been playing for time, hoping to find military supplies from abroad to placate the army.

The government held an emergency meeting Thursday but did not reply to the demands for political and economic reforms. The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said it would meet again Friday to discuss the crisis.

The Sudan Times said that military commanders had also asked Mahdi to disband the militia drawn from his ruling Umma Party and ordered the army onto

a higher state of readiness.

Diplomats in Khartoum have said the army's demands included the formation of a national salvation government bringing together all political forces, a peaceful end to a five-year civil war in the south and increased defence spending.

Newspapers said a delegation from the government coalition partners, Mahdi's Umma and the militant National Islamic Front (NIF), left Wednesday for neighbouring Libya, Sudan's main foreign backer.

They said the team consisted of Supreme Council member Ali Hassan Tajeddin, also Umma's secretary-general, NIF Politburo member Ibrahim Al Sinoussi and by a deputy chief-of-staff in charge of logistics.

The army has been increasingly exasperated by its failure to end the civil war against the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The army has repeatedly said it does not want to take power



Sadeq Al Mahdi

but junior officers might eventually press for action independent of the political leadership, diplomats said.

Mahdi, in power since May 1986, promised to publicise the military's demands after talks Wednesday with senior army officers — Commander-in-Chief General Fathi Ahmed Ali, Chief of Staff General Mahdi Nimiri and his three deputies.

Algerians adopt new constitution

ALGIERS (R) — Algerians have voted overwhelmingly to slam the door on over a quarter of a century of dogmatic one-party socialism and move into a new era of political and economic liberalism.

Announcing the result of a poll on a new constitution on Friday, Interior Minister Abu Bakr Belkaid said 73.4 per cent of Algerians who voted in Thursday's referendum had cast their ballot in favour of change.

He told reporters just over 10 million, or 79 per cent, of Algeria's 13 million registered voters had turned out to vote. Some 2,290,760 voted "Yes" and 2,637,678 "No."

Voting was overshadowed by threats of disruption by Islamic fundamentalists. Although turnout was slightly down on a previous referendum in November, witnesses reported no signs of protest against the vote.

The new constitution allows the creation of independent political associations, guarantees all workers the right to strike, deletes virtually all references to socialism, and guarantees individual and collective rights.

It was drawn up after President Chadli Benjedid promised far-reaching political reforms in response to violent anti-austerity riots that gripped the country last October, leaving at least 162 people dead.

It is the third time Algerians



Chadli Benjedid

have voted since the October unrest, but political analysts say the reforms in the new constitution represent the most important political changes since independence from France in 1962.

"This constitution represents a complete break with the past. Algeria is in the process of moving from the socialist into the Western group of nations," one North African analyst said.

In the 1960s and 70s, Algeria was at the forefront of the non-

aligned group of nations with its own particular brand of Third World socialism.

The new constitution signals the end of a monopoly on power enjoyed by the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) since independence.

It guarantees the separation of powers between judiciary, legislative and executive and creates an all-powerful constitution council to oversee its implementation.

The next stage of Benjedid's reform process will be an electoral law spelling out qualifications for new parties and candidates, followed by elections at national and regional levels.

Benjedid, elected to a third five-year term in December, has used the riots to sidestep opposition from conservatives within the FLN to economic reforms aimed at dismantling a centralised state-dominated economy.

Some leftist groups, including diehard FLN members, have opposed the constitution because it abandons socialism as Algeria's guiding ideology.

Due to an inadvertent technical error in the printing process, the Jordan Times, in its Thursday/Friday issue, published a wrong photograph for Algerian President Chadli Benjedid. The newspaper deeply regrets the error.

Iraq reopens air space for Iran-bound traffic

BAGHDAD (AP) — Seventy-eight Iraqi prisoners of war (POWs) flew home from Iran Thursday as the head of civil aviation in Iraq said the technical work was completed to allow jetliners bound to and from Iran to transit Iraqi airspace.

The official said Basra international airport is also now ready to accept international flights at bargain rates.

The prisoners released were the third and final group of 233 sick and disabled prisoners Iran said it released to mark the 10th anniversary of its revolution earlier this month.

Iran said it would release 260 prisoners, but the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said 27 of them sought asylum in Iran.

The head of the Iraqi Civil Aviation Authority, Majid Khalil Hussein, said the Iraqi airspace was now open for international airlines flying to Iranian airports. But he said no arrangements were in place to pass the planes off to Iranian flight controllers.

Iraq announced in late January during a visit by United Nations special envoy Jan Eliasson that it would open its airspace to flights to Iran, including those by Iran Air.

Hussein told a press conference

at Baghdad's airport that all technical arrangements have been completed.

He said border air control posts have been erected and new radar stations were installed to facilitate civil aviation into Iran through Iraqi airspace.

The Iraqi official expressed hope that Iran would take similar measures to ensure safety of civil aviation over the border of the two countries.

"We have completed our obligation, now it is the other party's turn," Hussein said.

The move was a confidence-building measure pushed by the United Nations in an effort to revive the stalled U.N.-sponsored peace talks aimed at ending the Gulf war, halted by a ceasefire Aug. 20.

The Iraqi official also announced that the airport at the southern city Basra was open for international aviation and that some special arrangements will be provided to encourage airlines to use Basra as a refuelling stop between Europe and Asia.

He said the Civil Aviation Authority has decided to exempt airlines from landing fees at the airport, reduce catering costs by 10 per cent and provide fuel at rates cheaper than anywhere else in the Gulf.

U.N. plans urgent airlift to Sudan

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. officials are preparing an emergency food airlift in Sudan to prevent mass starvation when vast areas are cut off during the rainy season starting in May.

"We are thinking of a massive airlift and are beginning preparations for one," said W. Bryan Wannop, U.N. special coordinator for emergency relief operations in Sudan.

But Wannop said a final decision will depend on whether food can be effectively and swiftly transported by train, barge and road before the rains.

He said a decision would be made when an international conference is convened in Khartoum, the capital, March 8-9 to devise a strategy to avert famine for populations displaced by drought and a rebellion in southern Sudan.

Details and costs of an airlift have not been worked out, he said. Other U.N. officials said earlier that an airlift would not be effective because it would be very costly and could not transport as much food as ground convoys.

Huge amounts of food will have to be stored and protected from the elements, rodents and insects and thieves.

UNIFIL soldier killed by gunfire from Israeli/SLA position

TYRE (Agencies) — An Irish soldier with the United Nations Truce Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was killed Friday by "unprovoked fire" from Israeli-armed militiamen, a U.N. spokesman said.

UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel said the peacekeeper was shot in the chest by machinegun fire from a South Lebanon Army (SLA) position overlooking an Israeli position in the southern village of Hadatha.

SLA, trained and financed by Israel, assists some 1,000 Israeli troops in patrolling Israel's self-designated "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Israel established the 10-to-15 kilometre "security zone" along the border in 1985 after withdrawing most of its troops from Lebanon.

"Death was instantaneous," said Goksel. "The fire was not provoked."

Tension escalated recently between the two groups, with two Scandinavian soldiers wounded earlier this month.

The 5,800-strong UNIFIL, comprising contingents from nine nations, has been deployed in South Lebanon under a peacekeeping mandate from the United Nations since 1978.

A total of 160 peacekeepers have been killed in South Lebanon over the past 11 years.

Friday's killing also brought the overall death toll of the 700-strong Irish battalion in Lebanon to

27.

A U.N. officer at U.N. headquarters in Naqurah also reported the killing.

"We don't know why he was shot. We just know he was on duty at a checkpoint at Hadatha, and he was hit by heavy machinegun fire from an SLA position about 1.5 kilometres away," said Colonel Patrick Keogh of UNIFIL.

An Irish officer, who declined to be identified, said SLA militiamen who patrol the strip had been shooting at his troop's position in Hadatha since last month.

"We do not know the reason. We have told the Israelis about the shooting but it seems they do not care," the officer said.

Military sources in Israel said that had an hour before Friday's attack UNIFIL lodged a protest with the Israeli army over earlier SLA shootings at the U.N. position.

Tension has been high in the past month between Israel and the SLA and UNIFIL forces, mainly over the expulsion of anti-SLA Lebanese men, women and children from villages in the "security zone."

UNIFIL commander General Lars Erik Wahlgren flew immediately to the scene of the incident from headquarters in Naqurah.

An Irish military spokesman in Dublin said the Irish UNIFIL contingent currently numbers 740 men.

Air Afrique hijacker sentenced to life

LAUSANNE (Agencies) — A Lebanese militant was sentenced to life imprisonment Friday for the 1987 hijack of an Air Afrique jetliner in which he killed a French passenger and seriously wounded a flight attendant.

Switzerland's highest court convicted Hussein Hariri, 22, on all seven charges against him, including murder, attempted murder and hostage taking.

The ruling by the five-member federal criminal court after a four-day trial, matched the demands of the prosecution, which called Hariri a "killer blinded by conviction."

Defence attorneys had sought a conviction on the lesser charge of manslaughter, claiming Hariri acted on a reflex when he fatally shot passenger Xavier Beaulieu, 28. They said testimony did not disprove their contention Frenchman had made a threatening move.

Hariri commandeered an Air Afrique DC-10 on a flight from Brazzaville, Congo, to Paris July 24, 1987 to press demands for the release of Lebanese and Palestinians held by France, West Germany and Israel.

After gaining control of the plane over northern Italy, he demanded to be flown to Beirut but agreed to a refuelling stop at Geneva airport. Hariri shot Beaulieu after his deadline for readying the plane expired.

Hariri has admitted shooting dead a French passenger after seizing the DC-10 but told the court: "I refuse to consider myself as a terrorist."

Court President Jean-Jacques Leu said the judges could find no extenuating circumstances for his action and said Hariri did not express any sincere regret for the death of Beaulieu.

Flanked by two Swiss guards, the bearded 23-year-old Lebanese stood motionless as the verdict was read out in French and then translated into Arabic.

The court was told Hariri boarded the airliner in the Central African Republic armed with a pistol, 142 rounds of ammunition and explosives hidden in a plastic sports bag. He smuggled them on the plane after bribing local police.

The guerrillas Hariri wanted released included Georges Ibrahim Abdallah.

Pity the Beirut traffic cop — trying to organise chaos

By Michael Kuli
Reuters

BEIRUT — Guns, kicks and curses are daily dangers for traffic police in Beirut, but some give almost as good as they get.

"I had to jump in front of the car to make the driver stop," says officer Mustafa Jendi. "The driver slapped me. I slapped him back. He drew his gun, I drew mine. He brought out a machinegun so I ran away."

Each traffic officer has his own way to deal with offenders. Lebanon's civil war has so weakened the legal system that it is pointless to write tickets.

Jamal Mansour says he punches the doors of the cars. Selim Saadeh leaps over the

hoods, Mustafa Haj kicks the drivers and Jamil Yousef waves the traffic to a halt and then walks off home.

Mansour tells of another defeat which cost the remnants of his self-respect.

"I begged him to give me his driving licence because he was driving on the pavement. I told him it was only to save my face in front of hundreds of drivers and that he could take it back in minutes."

"He refused, telling me it was not my business," Mansour says.

Lebanese drivers, survivors of nearly 14 years of civil war, have little time or regard for the traffic policemen of Beirut.

Paid meagre wages, the officers go to work on aged motorcycles, in dented Japanese cars or on foot.

"It is common to see policemen on Beirut's streets in the morning and evening rush hours arguing, shouting, cursing or exchanging punches with the drivers who disobey them. Occasionally there are gun fights."

Traffic policemen are well accustomed to being snubbed or regarded as irrelevant in a country with thousands of Lebanese, and foreign troops, U.N. peacekeepers and militiamen.

Armed only with revolvers, they do not pose enough of a threat to such frequent offenders as militiamen for whom only the gun is law.

The very few traffic signs left standing in Lebanon are rarely used to guide drivers. Many are plastered with posters for restaurants, cinemas, night

clubs or even death notices.

The last traffic light flickering in the capital stood in the once-wealthy Christian neighbourhood of Ashrafieh until recently. But it was stolen, probably to illuminate a night club dance floor.

Officers say it is almost impossible to keep order on the streets of Lebanon, where few drivers abide by the rules. With 300 men and little equipment, the traffic police have an almost hopeless mission.

They use their torches at night to act as traffic lights. They carry tree branches, rocks, used tyres, and garbage barrels to the side of roads to replace road signs and warn of hazards.

Many Lebanese civilians, frustrated at their own powerlessness to end the civil

war, proudly tell stories about how toughly they deal with the traffic cops — the only authority they can beat.

"Whenever I don't like a policeman I beat him up and put him in the boot of my car and pull his moustache if he has one," says 60-year-old Fouad Helmi, also known as Abu Al-Mouwas (father of razors).

He says the only traffic policeman he sees are usually enjoying a meal of bread and olives set on the hood of a car or smoking and drinking coffee.

Drivers, shopkeepers and pedestrians often take the initiative themselves and direct traffic to clear a traffic jam. Militiamen know they can easily clear a way by firing in the air.

"I used to drive my children

to school in a T-54 tank," says Kamal Merheb, a militiaman in East Beirut since the start of the civil war.

"My friends and I raced with M-113 troops carriers. I don't need a traffic policeman to tell me how or where to drive."

With such daily chaos on the roads, the casualty toll should be appalling.

But most visitors report that the Lebanese are very skilled drivers, even if they often speed the wrong way down Beirut's one-way streets and over the roundabouts rather than round them.

"They have adapted to the anarchy and learned to drive without guidance," says Mohammad Ibn Sulaim, a rally driver from the United Arab Emirates. "They depend only on themselves."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
16:10 Educational programme
17:35 The Friends
18:00 News summary
18:05 Message from Iraq
18:15 A play by Shakespeare
18:45 A programme on Kuwait
19:15 Local programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:45 Local programme
22:30 Arabic play
22:35 News in Arabic
23:10 Play continued

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Cossuau: A la Redécouverte du Monde
19:00 News in French
19:15 La Vie En Panne
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Natural Phenomena
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Ten of us
21:00 Alfred Hitchcock
21:30 Saturday Variety Show
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Brewster's Millions"

PRAYER TIMES

04:48 Fajr

06:06 (Sunrise) Duha
11:49 Dhuhur
15:01 'Asr
17:42 Maghreb
18:49 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 625785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661257
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 623340
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Saint International Church Tel. 685325
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Another rise in temperature will

occur and winds will be easterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 5/16
Aqaba 8/24
Desert 4/18
Jordan Valley 11/24

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15, Aqaba 22. Humidity readings: Amman 53 per cent, Aqaba 33 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Yousef Smeirat 821311
Dr. Abdul Aziz Abu Khalaf 663522
Dr. Yousef Sammour 613648
Dr. Mohammad Abu Maftouh 79344
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637955
Nairoukh pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Ta'ani 661101
Al Shamsa pharmacy 985238

ZARQA:
Dr. Nash'at Annani 985417
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 62209493
Blood Bank 77121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 65639091
Public Security Department 656000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints 658800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-52000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 6442816
Tahar Amman Maternity 64262
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Bustar Hospital 6672779
The Islamic, Abdali 666177/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6661646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Army, Marka 89161/15
Queen Alia Hospital 66224090
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (00983323

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 500 / 450
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Mukannar) 300 / 250
Beans 700 / 600
Broad beans 520 / 460
Cabbage 260 / 130
Carrots 250 / 200
Cauliflower 200 / 150
Cucumbers 580 / 500
Dates 600 / 500
Eggplant 320 / 250
Garlic 240 / 200
Grapefruit 220 / 160
Lemon 280 / 200
Lettuce (per one) 130 / 100
Marrow (large) 400 / 300
Marrow (small) 600 / 500
Orange (Shamouni) 420 / 360

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
05:30 Baghdad (RJ)
06:30 New Delhi (RJ)
06:10 Amman (RJ)
06:10 Damascus (RJ)
06:30 Cairo (RJ)
06:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
06:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
15:30 New York, Montreal (RJ)
16:20 Miami, Vienna (RJ)
17:20 Athens (RJ)
17:50 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

02:45 Belgrade, Istanbul (RJ)
03:30 Cairo (RJ)
03:30 Baghdad (RJ)
03:30 Bangkok (RJ)
03:30 Kuwait (RJ)
03:30 Rome (RJ)
03:30 Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ)
06:30 Amman (RJ)
06:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
06:30 Athens (RJ)
06:30 Tokyo (RJ)
06:30 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
06:30 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
06:30 London (RJ)
06:30 Paris (RJ)
06:30 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
06:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
06:30 Jeddah (RJ)
06:30 Larnaca (RJ)
06:30 Agaba, Cairo (RJ)
06:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
06:30 Amman (RJ)
06:30 Jeddah (RJ)
06:30 Baghdad (RJ)
06:30 Bangkok (RJ)
06:30 Kuwait (RJ)
06:30 Damascus (RJ)

Queen opens Byzantine exhibition in Lyon

PARIS (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday inaugurated the Byzantine Mosaics Exhibition at the Museum of Gallo-Roman Civilization in Lyon, France, and delivered a speech in which she highlighted the significance of holding the exhibition on the occasion of the bicentennial of the French Revolution.

"It was largely French men and women of this revolution who established the philosophical and intellectual foundation for the humane and democratic political order which swept over much of Europe and North America in the late 18th century," Queen Noor said.

She said the mosaics on display at the exhibition "tell a tale of artistic beauty that reflects centuries of social continuity. They talk of religious understanding and coexistence. They remind us that trade may promote material wealth, but that cultural interaction begets far greater riches of art, of understanding, of tolerance and of a human spirit enriched by faith in God trust in one's fellow man."

The message of the stones, Queen Noor said, "is at once a celebration of past glory and a challenge to achieve greater glory in the future."

The exhibition has more than 43 mosaic panels on display, which include architectural designs of several cities as well as designs of animals, birds and houses. The exhibition will also display eleven pieces of church furniture.

The Byzantine Mosaics Exhibition was organized by Jordan's Department of Antiquities in cooperation with the French government.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday speaks at the inauguration of the Byzantine Mosaics Exhibition in Lyon (Petra photo)

Earlier Tuesday, Queen Noor visited Dubrouse Children's Hospital, which is a section of the second most important hospital system in France.

During her visit, Queen Noor inspected the immune deficiency ward, leukemia ward and the bone marrow transplant ward. She also met with children being kept in plastic bubbles to avoid contamination.

The Queen expressed her admiration for the work being done by the hospital's personnel and discussed means of cooperation and exchange of expertise

with Dubrouse Hospital in preparation for the National Children Hospital Project of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, which Queen Noor is developing.

Also Tuesday, Queen Noor attended a luncheon held in her honour at the Higher National Music Conservatory of Lyon, which is affiliated to the French Ministry of Culture, and prepares professional musicians of the highest calibre for performances in France and other countries. The conservatory was established ten years ago.

Later in the evening, Queen

Noor attended an official dinner held in her honour by the Prefect of Lyon, Gilbert Carrere.

The mosaic exhibition is one of a series in Queen Noor's activities to encourage tourism to Jordan by promoting its rich cultural heritage and history throughout the world. The "King's Highway Exhibition: 9000 Years of History," which was organized in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities, was inaugurated by the Queen in 1986, and has toured France, Germany and Austria. The exhibition is expected to open in Japan.

Middle East energy conference begins

Regent: Mideast peace essential for continuous supply of energy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Thursday that a just and durable peace in the Middle East is an essential element for stability in the region so that its countries can continue to supply the world with energy.

Political and economic stability in the Middle East on the one hand and fair pricing of oil on the other, are two essential elements for enabling this region to maintain its continued supply of energy for the world's social and economic development, the Regent said in a speech read out on his behalf by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib to the opening session of a symposium entitled Middle East Energy Forum.

The Regent urged members of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) and other oil producing countries to coordinate their oil production and pricing policies and to maintain a dialogue with major oil consumers.

Amman, which is the venue of the current symposium, Prince Hassan said, "lies in the heart of the Middle East region which contains nearly 70 per cent of the total world oil reserves and which continues to play a significant role in international energy affairs."

As we approach the 1990s we can from here sum up the main features of the international energy situation in the following points: An increase in awareness about the dangers of environmental pollution; the important role played by OAPEC; an increase in demand of energy on the part of advanced nations and a growing amount of Middle East oil reserves," the Regent noted.

Prince Hassan said that matters related to the preservation of the environment are now playing a key role in resolutions connected to energy investments.

Jordan, in cooperation with Swedish energy institutions and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, has now prepared the way for a symposium on the environment which will be held in Amman towards the end of 1989, Prince Hassan noted.

Referring to world demand on oil, the Regent said that following a slump in oil prices between 1979 and 1985, there has been an increase in demand on oil over the past three years at the rate of two per cent annually.

Close cooperation among members of oil cartels is bound to bring about further world demand on oil from the Middle East, according to Prince Hassan.

The Regent pointed out that there has been limited advances in technology for finding alternative energy resources and said that oil is still the major source of energy for economic and social development around the world, followed by natural gas, coal, nuclear and water energy.

According to statistics and estimates, the total world's oil reserves by the start of 1989 stood at one thousand billion barrels of which 70 per cent lies in the Middle East, Prince Hassan pointed out.

He said that Saudi Arabia's reserves now stand at 250 billion barrels, accounting for nearly one

quarter of the whole world's oil reserves.

Reserves in Iraq and Kuwait are together more than 200 billion barrels, Prince Hassan added.

Mr. Abdul Latif Al Hamad, chairman of the Kuwait based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, said the fund attaches great importance to the question of oil which plays a major role in the Arab World's economic development.

He said the fund was willing to back all efforts in the Arab region in all matters related to the development of energy resources.

The secretary general of the World Energy Conference addressed the session paying tribute to Jordan's efforts to coordinate and promote the Middle East endeavours in oil and energy related affairs.

He underlined the importance of more intensive studies aimed at identifying various countries' needs of energy and determining the oil reserves.

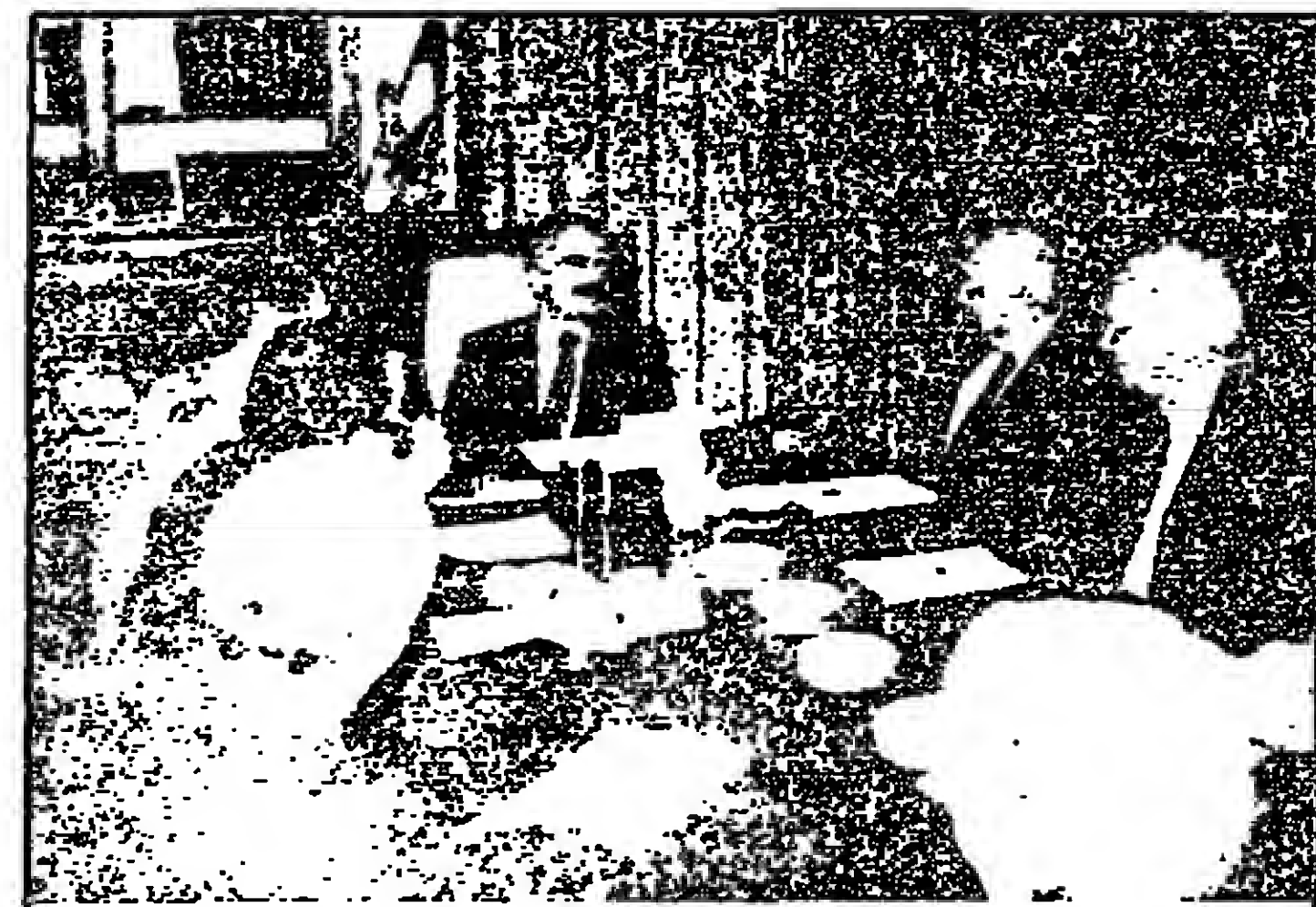
Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Jalabi addressed the meeting held at the Royal Cultural Centre, outlining future of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in the light of last year's general meeting.

That meeting, he said, was one of the most important since it unified the members' efforts in handling all oil matters and oil production.

OPEC countries together produced 31 billion barrels of oil in 1979, but due to a decline in demand on oil, OPEC's 1985 production dropped to 15 billion barrels, thus drastically reducing the cartel's revenues, Jalabi said.

"Due largely to lack of commitment to OPEC's resolutions by some of its members, another decline in oil prices occurred in 1987, warranting a decisive meeting in 1988 when agreement was reached on a production quota of 18.5 billion barrels annually," the Iraqi minister noted.

But he said OPEC is expected to play a significant role in the world's economy in the 1990s.



Regent receives delegates

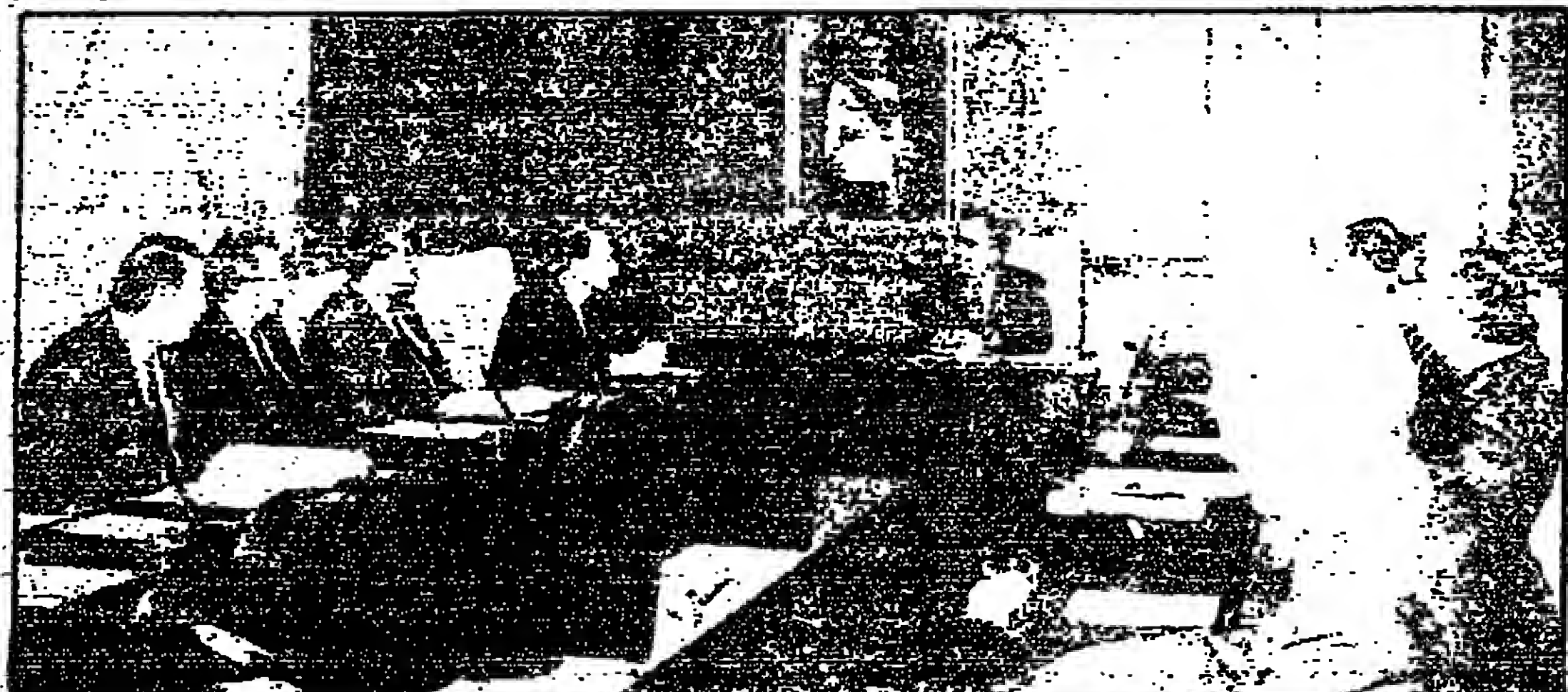
His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, had a meeting in the Royal Court Thursday with Iraqi Minister of Oil Issam Al Jalabi who was accompanied by Abdul Latif Al Hamad, chairman of the Kuwait based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and Abdul Latif Al Watari, secretary general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC). Discussion centred on Iraqi-Jordanian cooperation in oil related matters and touched on the current symposium in Amman to discuss Middle East oil resources entitled "Middle East Energy Forum." Prince Hassan reviewed the outcome of talks held this week in Amman between the Jordanian and Iraqi oil and mineral resources ministers, the current preparations for the fifth Arab energy conference, which is due to be held in Amman in 1992, as well as preparations for the international energy conference due to be held in Canada towards the end of 1989 (Petra photo)

Crown Prince praises new economic measures

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has commended the government's recent economic, monetary and financial measures to stimulate the national economy and referred to favourable statements by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund which voiced support for these measures.

The Regent was addressing a meeting of the Higher Planning Committee, which is chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, and comprises several ministers, representatives of the Armed Forces and the Central Bank of Jordan.

Prince Hassan underlined the importance of coordination and interaction between the development and the economic process, especially in the current circum-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday attends a meeting of the Higher Planning Committee in Amman (Petra photo)

stances, and stressed the need to link the educational process with the various sectors and above all the requirements of the national economy.

He also emphasised the need to link the civilian and military institutions in Jordan to achieve the goals of the Kingdom's comprehensive development process.

The Regent called on the government to enhance the role of the development councils, especially those striving to develop the badia and the southern regions of the Kingdom, and stressed the need for defining priorities in the course of implementing development schemes.

In this context, the Regent said, more meaningful role should be given to the private sector which should be able to create institutions capable of contributing to and participating in the decision-making processes in all matters related to the national

economy. At the meeting Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan submitted a report on the government's programmes in economic, monetary and financial sectors, as well as challenges and difficulties in the way of implementing them.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi, Finance Minister Hanan Odeh, Information Minister Hani Khasawneh, Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa, Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb, Ministry of Planning's Secretary General Ziyad Fariz and Central Bank Governor Hussein Al Qasem.

The Higher Planning Committee was set up by the government in the past month in the light of royal directives to help implement economic and financial policies and boost investment in Jordan.

Arab-Canadian commerce delegation arrives in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Arab-Canadian Council of Commerce, headed by the council's chairman Samir Zalzal arrived here on a four-day visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian businessmen and industrialists on prospects for transfer of Canadian technology and setting up joint ventures.

In an arrival statement, Zalzal said the visit aims at exploring possibilities of setting up major industrial and technological projects in Jordan, and to give the Canadian businessmen and industrialists the opportunity to get first hand information about the Jordanian market.

The delegation's visit is part of a tour in the region which has so far taken them to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates where they concluded a number of agreements aimed at increasing the volume of commercial exchange, transfer of technology and setting up joint ventures.

The council was set up in Ottawa in 1983 to promote economic cooperation and enhance commercial exchange between Canada and the Arab World.

The delegation groups representatives for 11 Canadian companies, in addition to representatives for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the private sector.

Jordan Times cartoonist dies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Cartoonist Rabah Zghair, whose humorous portrayals of the world and Middle East situations used to adorn the pages of the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i, passed away in hospital Thursday after suffering from a sudden brain haemorrhage. He was 58. The Jordan Times shares the grief of the family and extends its heartfelt condolences. (see the cartoonist's last work on page 4)



Youth Minister Awad Khleifat and his Egyptian counterpart Dr. Abdul Ahad Jamahuddin Thursday discuss cooperation in sports and youth affairs in Amman. (Petra photo)

Jordan, Egypt discuss cooperation in sports

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt opened talks here Thursday on means of promoting their cooperation in sports and youth affairs.

Training of personnel, participation in scout camping activities, organising seminars on youth affairs and exchanging visits by youth groups and sports teams to benefit from each other's experiences in various youth related fields, were on the agenda of talks conducted by the two sides through Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat and his Egyptian counterpart Dr. Abdul Ahad Jamahuddin.

Khleifat said that the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council is bound to promote cooperation among Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and

North Yemen in youth affairs as well as other fields.

During the meeting the minister briefed the visiting delegation on the Ministry of Youth's endeavours to develop the Jordanian Youth potentials culturally and physically, and expressed hope that such activities will be promoted through cooperation with Egypt and other Arab countries.

The Egyptian minister said that discussions between officials on both sides will pave the way for mutual cooperation. He said that the youth in Egypt and Jordan play a leading role in the development since they constitute 70 per cent of the total volume of youth in the Arab World.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

REGENT CONGRATULATES KUWAIT: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday sent a cable to Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, congratulating him in his own name and on behalf of Jordan's government and people on Kuwait's national day. He wished the Emir continued good health and happiness and the Kuwaiti people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

REGENT VISITS PTC: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday paid a visit to the headquarters of the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) and inspected its activities and programmes. The Regent was briefed on the corporation's endeavours to make available spare parts for its vehicles and buses by relying more and more on its own workshops and Jordanian manufacturers. The Prince passed a number of directives concerning matters of production and later expressed his satisfaction with the progress of work and the PTC's services. (Petra)

CROWN PRINCE CONDOLES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has delegated the governor of Karak to convey his condolences to the Tarawneh family on the death of the late Hajj Abdul Karim Salaman Tarawneh. Prince Hassan also delegated the governor of Balqa to convey his condolences to the Saket family on the death of Bahjat Ali Saket. (Petra)

FIRST INSTANCE COURT IN MADABA: A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing the formation of a First Instance Court in Madaba district so as to help people living there settle their cases. (Petra)

IRAQI AWQAF MINISTER: Iraqi Minister of Awqaf and his Jordanian counterpart Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Thursday visited an ancient holy site in Madaba district. Khayyat and his aides briefed the Iraqi minister on the historical background of the site which dates back to the Umayyad era and said that the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in Jordan gives due attention to the Islamic holy sites in the Kingdom and maintains restoration programmes. (Petra)

JORDANIAN-SYRIAN INDUSTRY COMPANY: The Jordanian-Syrian Industry Company has concluded a meeting in Damascus during which it reviewed resolutions related to its operations as outlined by the joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee meetings in Amman earlier this month. (Petra)

U.K. ENVOY VISITS ZERKA: The British Embassy's Development Secretary Malcolm Ives, yesterday visited Zerka and called on a number of charity and social welfare organisations. (Petra)

ARAMEX CONFERENCE: Director General of Aramex International Courier Fadi Ghandour Friday opened a two-day annual conference, with all station and branch managers from the Middle East, Europe and America attending. The conference will discuss several reports about the global courier services and the proposals made to develop Aramex services at the local, regional and international levels. (J.T.)

CATHAY PACIFIC SEMINAR: Cathay Pacific Airways organised agency seminar in cooperation with its general sales agent in Jordan, Grand Travel & Tourism, which included a briefing on Cathay Pacific Airways history, its valuable product in the airline industry for stay a while, discovery tour, round the world, great circle fare and the new Marco Polo Business Class. The seminar was followed by a dinner party at the Plaza Hotel. (J.T.)

TWO DELUXE FURNISHED FLATS FOR RENT

A flat with American accommodation and fully electric equipment contains three bedrooms, two baths, salon, dining room, big kitchen, colour T.V., V.C.R. and telephone. We have also another flat with two bedrooms and have the same details above. Please call tel. no. (814536) after 1 p.m.

Merchants warned against selling bad food supplies

AMMAN (Petra) — Merchants and store keepers have been warned again that their selling of food supplies which are not fit for human consumption, will make them liable to face prison terms ranging from one to six months.

Minister of Supply Fayez Tarawneh said in a statement Friday that introduction into the country of such food supplies and any tampering with markings on all food indicating production and expiry dates, or even storing such food are regarded as violation of the Ministry of Supply regulations.

The minister revealed that Supply Ministry teams seized quantities of food supplies unfit for human consumption over the past few days.

He added that the ministry was trying, by all possible means, to provide protection to the consumers and therefore warns merchants, food stores and storekeepers to avoid any violation of the law.

On Thursday the minister made inspection tours of a number of supply installations and centres in Ma'an Governorate and Aqaba district in southern Jordan.

The tour took Tarawneh to ministry warehouses and centres for the distribution of animal feed to farmers where he inspected procedures and heard a briefing on the supply situation in the region and efforts to maintain control over prices.

In Aqaba the minister inspected port facilities for handling food supplies, cereal silos and warehouses.

He met with Aqaba Region Authority president and the director general of the Jordanian Ports Corporation to discuss export-import matters.

The tour was accompanied on the way by the ministry's secretary general and two senior aides.

CULTURAL SEASON AT MU'TA: The cultural season Thursday began at Mu'ta University. The season, which lasts until late April, includes scientific and cultural activities, symposiums, lecture, poetry recitals and exhibitions. (Petra)

Every Saturday night.

NEPTUNE'S NIGHT

FRESH FISH & SHELL FISH FROM SEAS

UNCOMPARABLE MEALS SERVED IN A RELAXED PIANO ATMOSPHERE 9.30 per person.

Please Reserve in Advance Tel: 06/51000

(مساء كل يوم السبت)

ليالي نبتون

تشكيلة من الأسماك الطازجة وجبة غنية من خيرات البحار تقدم في أجواء مريحة مع عازف البيانو مازود حشون 9.30 للشخص الواحد

الرجاء الحجز مسبقاً هاتف: ٥١٠٠٠ (٠٦)

SELECTION OF HORS D'OEUVRES

SHRIMP COGNAC OR SMOKED SALMON

LOBSTER TAIL (500g)

CHICKEN OR GRILLED SEA FOOD PRODUCE OR

DISH BAKED SEABASS IN "SALSA MARRA" OR

DEEP FRIED "MUSHRUM" CULI - SHALLOW WATER FISH

LOBSTER TAIL WITH AMARO SHRIMP

"VEGETABLE GRATIN"

CATERING - PALESTINES FROM TROLLEY.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

جوردن تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Editorial Director:
LAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:
DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:
DR. WALEED M. SADI

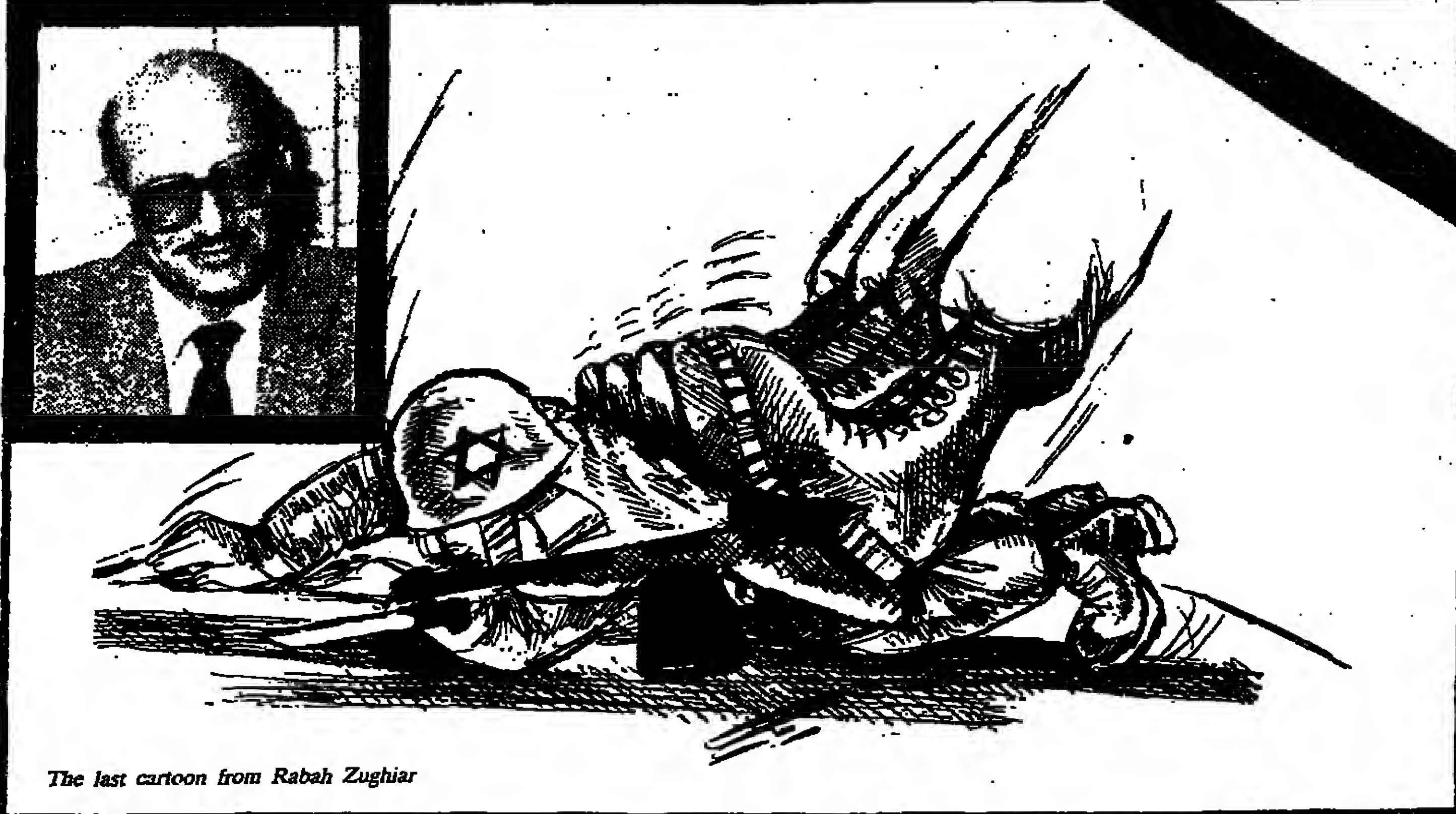
Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department.



The last cartoon from Rabah Zughair

Enhancing peace prospects

THE sad occasion of the funeral of the late Japanese Emperor Hirohito was also an eventful opportunity to hold an international summit conference among the many leaders of states who flocked to pay their final respects to the late emperor. There are not many opportunities when such a big number of world leaders gather and hold serious talks for the betterment of mankind. The most meaningful tribute to nations and their leaders can offer to Emperor Hirohito is to affect a marked improvement between them through the elucidation of issues and positions that still divide nations.

Seen against this backdrop, the talks that His Majesty King Hussein has held with other heads of state attending the funeral will of course enhance the prospects of peace in the region. The crystal clear commitment of Jordan to the idea of convening an effective international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict under the aegis of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, was made simply vivid to President George Bush during the talks last week. The two leaders held in Tokyo. The same principled position was also passed on to the other heads of state whom His Majesty has talked to as well. The unwavering Jordanian stance on the need to convene such a conference is the only viable and operational panacea to the dispute between Israel and the Arabs and the support that this strategic objective has received internationally as well as regionally, have indeed fortified the chances of holding such a conference in the near future. King Hussein will have another opportunity to convince the Americans about the indispensability of the conference idea when he meets with the U.S. President George Bush in Washington in the spring. The other superpower, the Soviet Union, is also firmly and effectively on the side of holding an international conference. So are the Arab parties. What remains to be done is to win over the U.S. to the international consensus in favour of convening such a conference. As soon as the U.S. becomes committed to the idea of an effective international conference, Israel cannot be expected to pose a problem. That is if the U.S. really wants to exercise its responsibilities as one of the two superpowers on whose shoulders international peace and security rest.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

In its Friday's edition Al Ra'i daily newspaper commented on His Majesty King Hussein's meetings with world leaders gathered in Tokyo for Friday's funeral of the late Japanese Emperor Hirohito. The paper said that the King's talks with the world leaders of state concentrated on the Middle East and means to end the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international peace conference. In his meeting with the U.S. president the King explained the Kingdom's position with regard to the question of peace in the Middle East and reiterated the important role of the United Nations in helping to bring it about. The King is sparing no time or effort in his on-going endeavours to establish peace in the Middle East through an international conference which is supported by all world nations except Israel, the paper noted. What is interesting though is President Bush's promise to the King that Washington would do all it can to stimulate the peace efforts, said the paper. It said that Jordan had explained its position clearly to the whole world and it is up to the world now in general and the United States in particular to help the Arabs and the Palestinians to attain the aspired peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i is in the view that the current flurry in diplomatic contacts among world nations should not justify naivety or a passive attitude on the part of the Arab World. Yehoud Rimawi says that of late the Soviet Union, the United States and the European Community have been displaying increasing interest in resolving the Middle East problem, but that ought to prompt the Arabs themselves to take the initiative and to what they can through their diplomatic contacts and meetings to help revive serious attempts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. Rimawi says that the Arabs should most importantly win Washington's approval for the proposed international conference and persuade it to contribute to the peace efforts and shoulder its responsibility as a superpower and one that has immense interests in the Middle East region. The writer says that the recent statements coming from the Soviet and American leaders and officials indicate that the superpowers are indeed keen on ending the dispute in our region in the light of the favourable international atmosphere and the East-West détente. But he says that the Arabs can help involve the Americans, the Europeans and the Soviets in the current quest for lasting peace.

Al Bustour daily commented on King Hussein's meeting with the U.S. president in Tokyo describing it as part of Jordan's on-going intensive contacts to attain peace. The King's meetings in the Japanese capital and his talks with President Bush, said the paper, constitute a real contribution towards the attainment of the aspired peace and an important development in the current attempts to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, said the paper. Al Bustour said that Jordan attaches a great importance to the United States role in our region and continues to enlist Washington's balanced policies in handling the problems of this region in view of the United States great influence on Israeli policies. But it said Jordan also gives due importance to the role which the United Nations Security Council members can play together in ending the conflict and bringing peace to the Arab region. The paper said that Jordan has paved the way for a U.S.-PLO dialogue which is conducive to the cause of peace, by severing links with the West Bank thus providing the Palestinians with the not with which to handle the Palestine issue. Such a development and the on-going uprising in the occupied Arab lands, the paper added, should open the way for more serious efforts leading to the aspired peace.

Arab-Americans charge AIPAC with violation of American laws

ON THURSDAY, January 12, six prominent American citizens filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) charging the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and twenty-five pro-Israel PACs with violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.

Signatories to the complaint include former Undersecretary of State George Ball, former U.S. Congressman Paul Findley, Ret. Rear Admiral Robert Hanks, former U.S. Ambassadors James E. Aikens, Andrew I. Killgore, Richard Curtis and Orin Parker. The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) provided research assistance to the plaintiffs.

The one-hundred page complaint and exhibits allege that AIPAC and other Political Action Committees have violated federal law by failing to register as a political committee, by making illegal contributions to federal election campaigns, by failing to disclose affiliation and by making excessive contributions to political candidates in 1984, 1986 and 1988.

The complainants have called upon the FEC to find sufficient "reason to believe" that violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act and the Commission's own regulations have occurred and have requested that a full-scale preliminary investigation into the affiliation relationship between AIPAC and pro-Israel PACs be commenced immediately.

According to the Commission's own definition, a "reason to believe" finding means that "the Commission believes a violation may have occurred if the facts as described in the complaint are true." The complainants believe that the substantial evidence presented in their complaint more than meets this threshold demonstrating the existence of numerous violations of U.S. federal law.

In what is believed to be the most serious challenge to AIPAC's political activities in the United States, the complainants have requested that the FEC order AIPAC to register as a political committee, that it require the respondent PACs to disclose their affiliation with AIPAC, that the appropriate fines and civil penalties be levied against the respondents and that all illegal contributions be returned to the respondents and to the respective individual contributors by the recipient candidates/elected representatives.

Commenting on the action, ADC President Abdeen Jabara stated that "this effort to stop the violation by pro-Israel PACs of our federal election law is a welcome one. It is part of the growing protest by the American public of the role that the big money of special interest groups plays in distorting the American political process as well as U.S. foreign and domestic policies. In light of the recent public revelations about AIPAC's role in subverting American campaign finance law this complaint is most timely."

AIPAC's repeated claim that it does not endorse candidates notwithstanding, the complainants have provided compelling evidence, including internal AIPAC memos, of the organization's practice over the years of channelling funds to candidates in local elections throughout the country.

For example, in a 1986 memo from Elizabeth Schryer,

Statement by Abdeen Jabara

OVER the past decade, since the passage of the Federal Election Campaign Financing Act, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee has observed the rising importance of Political Action Committees as a principal source of campaign funds for election to federal office. Rising from 5 per cent of total campaign contributions when first authorized by law to a figure of almost one-third today, the influence of these special interest PACs on the American political process has caused increasing public alarm. This public concern has resulted in Congressional efforts to pass legislation which would sharply limit the role that PACs play in campaign financing. ADC has supported these efforts as well as efforts for the public financing of campaigns. Parallel to this development have been efforts by like-minded special interest PACs to evade the evils which the Federal Election Campaign Financing Act was supposed to overcome. This evasion was accomplished by a number of PACs contributing to the same candidate in the same election cycle. Interlocking membership in Boards of Directors, Advisory Boards, and Committees of pro-Israel PACs and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee all point to close coordination of pro-Israel money in the American political process. Research by ADC has revealed a remarkable similarity in the patterns of giving and the candidates supported. The results of this research led to discussion among a number of individuals who for sometime had been concerned with the inordinate influence of the pro-Israel lobby in American politics. Several of these individuals decided to take action to insure pro-Israel lobby's activities conform to federal law. It is the fervent desire of ADC that the complaint trigger a full and thorough investigation of AIPAC's role in the American political process. AIPAC's arguments notwithstanding, the evidence contained in this well researched complaint clearly shows that AIPAC does endorse candidates, that it does funnel funds to candidates for political office and that it does act in concert with pro-Israel PACs throughout the country. This evidence cannot be dismissed. We demand a full inquiry.

Anti-American sentiment in S. Korea

By Sonya Hepinstall
Reuters

KUNSAN AIR FORCE BASE, South Korea — A remote town on the southwest coast of South Korea has found there is no escaping the politics of Seoul.

Disident factions in the area have taken the opportunity to stage violent protests against the status of U.S. forces in South Korea as an investigation began into a U.S. airman's alleged role in the death of a South Korean man.

A dead Korean, a living American and a key air force base — these days it's a dangerous combination.

Kunsan city is off limits to most U.S. military personnel until Tuesday.

U.S. and South Korean sources say the two men exchanged words before the American — a 29-year-old sergeant from Bridgeport, Connecticut — pushed Chong Pan-Yong, 54, to the ground. Chong died of head wounds last week.

"This is not a personal feeling," said a disident leader at the hospital where Chong, a mushroom grower, was pronounced dead. "We don't hate the Americans because one man killed a South Korean."

"We're talking about discrimination and the occupational mentality of the United States military. These protests are anti-American only because they have to be, under the circumstances. The struggle itself is not anti-American."

Radicals oppose much of what the United States does here, including its trade policies and the stationing of about 43,000 servicemen troops on the peninsula.

Kunsan air force base is an essential part of that military force. The base, formerly owned by Japanese colonial forces and now the only air base owned outright by the United States, houses about 48 advanced F-16 fighter planes, two fighter squadrons and 3,500 military personnel.

The F-16s can carry nuclear bombs and security on the base is extra tight.

Base commander Colonel George Giddens said relations with Kunsan city, a quiet fishing and agricultural centre about seven miles (12 km) away, have usually been good and many citizens seem to agree.

Both sides point out that the two have more or less happily coexisted for almost 44 years, even since the Americans took over the base at the end of World War II.

Effects which will reflect primarily through affirming goods production, business operations based on profits, increased exports, technological development, technology transfers etc.

Foreigners can invest in the economy and in other social activities. Investments can be made in foreign currency, goods, rights, dollars which can be transferred abroad, dollars acquired through foreign currency exchange or converted foreign credits.

Domestic partners can invest dollars, goods or rights.

The possibility of converting foreign credits into joint investments should enable a lowering of debts and development and a transfer from the current credit indebtedness to attracting foreign capital and securing additional sources of accumulation for the

share-holder societies, societies with limited responsibility, commodity societies and societies with unlimited solidarity responsibility, private enterprises, banks or other financial organisations.

Foreign investors have the right to manage or participate in managing business enterprises equal to the invested funds. Foreigners can sell or transfer investments to other foreign or domestic investors, and participate in profits equal to the invested funds and freely transfer or reinvest them.

Tax exemptions on profits have been envisaged for foreign investors in initial periods and exemptions in taxing funds reinvested in Yugoslavia.

The new law is expected to provide significant positive

Yugoslav economy.

The new law is the first to permit foreigners to found their own companies on condition that they do not run counter to the interests of the country's defence and environment. The rights of workers employed in foreign companies will be regulated under a collective labour contract.

Foreign investors can be given permits (concessions) for using renewed natural resources or goods in general use. The duration and conditions of the concession are established by contract between the foreign investor and socio-political community where the operations will take place.

The law also allows foreigners to build, manage and use facilities as their own company for a limited period after which the facilities would become socially

owned.

Yugoslav economists expect the new law on foreign investments to mark a turning point in economic relations with the world since it offers new solutions to potential partners.

A sudden inflow of foreign capital would be unrealistic to expect but the road has been paved for new arrangements, especially in tourism. The effects will depend greatly on overall economic conditions in the country — Tanjig features.

Jordan Times Tel: 667171-6

OPEN FORUM

Ode to Al Hussein

You took the first stone,
Proved to us that we are not alone
You encouraged us to build up our land
And let all your people join hand

You, Al Hussein, never gave up,
Brought us your life in a royal cup,
Together our nation has never failed,
And with you as our leader we always victoriously sailed

To you, our pride's song
All hearts belong
You, our King, are a sensation
And together with you we have built a blessed nation

All we can hope for now is that you are as proud of us
As we are of you
And this is just a little clue
To show how much we love you

Jumana Sharbin
P.O. Box 2427
Amman — Jordan

Bush under fire over fumbling foreign policy

By Christopher Hanson
Reuters

WASHINGTON — George Bush took office with more foreign policy experience than any president since Richard Nixon but critics say he is off to a shaky start in foreign affairs.

Key posts at the state and defence departments are still unmaned a month after he was sworn in. Secretary of State James Baker is under fire. Political analysts are asking whether the Bush team has enough strategic vision to match the bold initiatives of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

U.S. officials dismiss the criticism, saying any new administration requires time to settle in and that the new team will begin asserting itself more forcefully once it finishes reviews of East-West policy, the Middle East, Central America and other areas.

But many foreign policy experts are sceptical, arguing that Bush, Baker, and national security adviser Brent Scowcroft are nuts-and-bolts problem solvers who have never displayed talent for global strategy. This talent they argue is vital to deal with Gorbachev's torrent of proposals on arms control, troop cuts, regional conflicts and other issues.

"Lacking a single, dominant long-range strategist... what is the team going to do besides conduct studies and field crises?" asked the New Republic magazine in an article headlined "Blind men's bluff." It was illustrated with a cartoon of Bush, Baker, and Scowcroft wearing dark glasses and carrying white canes.

Bush was praised during the election campaign for his foreign experience, having served as U.S. envoy to China, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Even if he could come up with a grand strategy, Bush at the moment does not have the staff to carry it out.

Many posts remain unfilled. The Senate has been slow to confirm key appointments such as defence secretary-designate John Tower, whose drinking and sexual habits have been scrutinised at length, and nominee for deputy secretary of state, Lawrence Eagleburger, whose confirmation hearings have not even been set.

The New York Times in an editorial accused right-wing Republican senators such as Jesse Helms of North Carolina and Gordon Humphrey of New Hampshire of holding the process hostage, threatening delay on State Department appointments until more conservatives are promoted.

On the Arab-Israeli conflict, "there seems to be a vacuum of U.S. action, with (Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard) Shevardnadze out in front," said Middle East analyst Joyce Starr of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

Shevardnadze is wrapping up a high-profile tour of the region, pressing a more active Soviet role in peace-making at a time when Washington is pondering what to do next.

"Why are they succeeding? Because the president and Mr. Baker have not fought back," the newspaper complained.

"Thirty of President Bush's first 100 days are gone, yet he still has no government capable of managing foreign affairs and national security."

Baker took heat for flying off this month on a 10-day tour of 15 NATO countries before solving what Nixon's former Defence Secretary Melvin Laird called his "people problem."

"Priorities have gotten a little out of line," Laird told a news conference. "People have to be in place before you (go) all over the world."

Baker and Bush will spend a week visiting Japan, China, and South Korea beginning Wednesday.

Laird said that due to inadequate staffing Baker had been poorly briefed for the NATO trip and had needlessly inflamed a dispute with Bonn over proposed deployment of short-range nuclear missiles that are opposed by most West Germans.

"President Bush hardly needs to launch his European diplomacy with a crisis with West Germany. Yet that's what the administration is courting," said former White House foreign policy aide Robert Hunter, a Democrat.

Lack of manpower has also delayed reviews of the U.S. stance on the strategic arms reduction (START) talks in Geneva and East-West relations in general, the analysts said.

There was no new assistant secretary of state for Europe, no new director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, no senior Bush appointees at the Pentagon.

"Without them there can be no policy review," the Times editorial asserted.

Bush's choice for assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs, Bernard Aronson, has not been confirmed. When Central American presidents reached an accord last week that may hold new prospects for peace, the Baker team seemed caught off guard and had no public reaction.

On the Arab-Israeli conflict, "there seems to be a vacuum of U.S. action, with (Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard) Shevardnadze out in front," said Middle East analyst Joyce Starr of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

Shevardnadze is wrapping up a high-profile tour of the region, pressing a more active Soviet role in peace-making at a time when Washington is pondering what to do next.

Jordan Times Tel: 667171-6

Mugging — a way of life in Paraguay

Alberto Arceles

Reuter — The military which ended the 34-year General Alfredo Stroessner's rule has yet to affect the most important aspect of everyday life in Paraguay — mugging. In Asuncion, everything electronic was taken to a suspiciously low brand new car can be mugged. Mugging has flourished under tolerance, providing a livelihood for thousands of young, according to localists.

Independent economists say some \$300 million in contraband passes through Paraguay every year. Most electronic goods are flown in, while large shipments of farm produce or industrial products come by truck.

There is also an incessant flow of people at the borders, where Paraguayans decide with which country they will trade, depending on currency fluctuations. Many of the 150,000 residents of Puerto Stroessner, renamed Ciudad del Este following the Feb. 3 military coup, live off small-scale smuggling.

The city, 315 kilometres east of Asuncion, is a smuggler's haven because it stands where the borders of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay meet.

Cooking oil
Its merchants depend on price variations in the different countries. If cooking oil is cheap in Argentina, Paraguayans will queue up to buy two or three bottles, which will eventually be used in Asuncion.

Argentine must pass three different customs points to find good deals in electronic products in Puerto Stroessner. But often the Paraguayan and the Brazilian officials simply nod and smile as they return to Argentina.

Paraguay authorities maintain road checks between Asuncion and Puerto Stroessner, an area which enjoys certain tariff exemptions, but economists say contraband is rarely impounded. Brazilian and Argentine authorities are worried by the stolen car racket. Automobiles picked up in Buenos Aires are taken to Paraguay and later sold in Asuncion or in Brazil for half their original price with forged papers, according to Paraguayan officials.

The opposition claims that for decades Stroessner and his inner circle profited from the situation. Now the new authorities will have to make difficult decisions if they want to normalise Paraguay's foreign trade.

The economists say any kind of clamp-down on contraband is likely to step on some people's toes.

Most of these copies are made in Taiwan, South Korea, Panama and the United States. Reuters was told by an economic adviser of the new Paraguayan government who asked not to be identified.

Paraguay, whose main products are soy beans and cotton, imports 90 per cent of the manufactured goods it requires.

Its need to import goods is tied in with the lack of steady jobs for its 4.1 million population, making it all the harder to crack down on contraband and deprive thousands of a way to make ends meet.

Independent economists say some \$300 million in contraband passes through Paraguay every year. Most electronic goods are flown in, while large shipments of farm produce or industrial products come by truck.

There is also an incessant flow of people at the borders, where Paraguayans decide with which country they will trade, depending on currency fluctuations. Many of the 150,000 residents of Puerto Stroessner, renamed Ciudad del Este following the Feb. 3 military coup, live off small-scale smuggling.

The city, 315 kilometres east of Asuncion, is a smuggler's haven because it stands where the borders of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay meet.

Cooking oil
Its merchants depend on price variations in the different countries. If cooking oil is cheap in Argentina, Paraguayans will queue up to buy two or three bottles, which will eventually be used in Asuncion.

Argentine must pass three different customs points to find good deals in electronic products in Puerto Stroessner. But often the Paraguayan and the Brazilian officials simply nod and smile as they return to Argentina.

Paraguay authorities maintain road checks between Asuncion and Puerto Stroessner, an area which enjoys certain tariff exemptions, but economists say contraband is rarely impounded. Brazilian and Argentine authorities are worried by the stolen car racket. Automobiles picked up in Buenos Aires are taken to Paraguay and later sold in Asuncion or in Brazil for half their original price with forged papers, according to Paraguayan officials.

The opposition claims that for decades Stroessner and his inner circle profited from the situation. Now the new authorities will have to make difficult decisions if they want to normalise Paraguay's foreign trade.

The economists say any kind of clamp-down on contraband is likely to step on some people's toes.



Namibia's neglected children

As Namibia nears independence the future of its children hangs in the balance. Nearly a century of repressive occupation and systematic exploitation has left the Namibian society in ruins.

By Ntshale Warren-Green

OXFORD — The agreement on independence for Namibia has brought a new urgency to the problems faced by the country's children, the single population group worst affected by more than two decades of conflict.

Those who were children when war broke out 22 years ago are now watching their own children grow up in the same atmosphere of fear, danger and oppression, says Caroline Moorehead, author of a new report on Namibia published by the Oxford-based charity Oxfam.

The fact that children have suffered under the South African occupation of the country is hardly surprising, but it's the extent of their exploitation which makes Moorehead's account specially relevant as Namibian leaders look to post-independence reforms.

Abisai Shejavali, general secretary of the Council of Churches in Namibia, cites evidence of children being used as cheap labour on South African farms, as spies by the South African security police and as victims of gra-

uitous torture. "Those living in the war zone, especially, risk being tortured, beaten and even killed, if they are thought to be adversaries," he says in a foreword to Moorehead's report. "They are furthermore exposed to the danger of explosives in the vicinity of their homes. Incidents of children dying after explosions are common in northern Namibia."

In December 1988, South Africa signed a United Nations-sponsored accord on granting Namibia independence. The agreement, brokered by the United States, involved a trade-off — commitment by Cuba and Angola to the withdrawal of some 50,000 troops from Angola, Namibia's northern border.

Restructuring

But, within Namibia, the task of restructuring a country which for a century has been under occupation may prove to be daunting. Imperial Germany, the first occupying power, divided the country into two, reserving most of the good agricultural land and mineral sources for the white

settlers. Subsequent rule by South Africa fragmented Namibian life along ethnic and racial lines, with disastrous results for the social and economic development of Namibians. Both German and South African settlers systematically denied native Namibians education.

The strategy was summarised early on by a German missionary named Hoeflich, who said "the country does not need educated Negroes, but competent, intelligent workers. The main emphasis will therefore be on education for obedience, order, punctuality, sobriety, honesty, diligence and moderation rather than academic learning."

In the experience of one Namibian boy cited by Moorehead, security forces told pupils at a school near a military base "if SWAPO attacks their base they will fire straight into our school." One day there was an attack on the base. "There were lots of pupils at school and we tried to hide under our beds," recalled the boy, Elias. "Seven of my friends were shot and two died later."

In recent months many schools in Namibia have been bombed and destroyed. Although South African forces blamed SWAPO, Namibian activists found evidence of the security forces' involvement in the attacks.

In addition to the poor schooling, Namibian children have suffered from non-existent care. An Oxfam nutritional survey showed evidence of widespread malnutrition among black children. Over a quarter of all those in the survey were underweight, one in 10 'wasted' and one in six 'stunted.' Malnutrition in infants was particularly serious.

According to the United Nations Institute for Namibia, black children are 40 times more at risk of dying from meningitis or tuberculosis than white children. Gastroenteritis alone kills as many black children as die from all diseases in the white community.

Moorehead concludes that "Namibia is a country in crisis. Its children's future is threatened by South African occupation, apartheid and war. Even after independence, she believes, Namibian children will remain vulnerable."

"Black Namibians," says Moorehead, "are working and hoping for a future independent Namibia where a new generation of children both white and black, can grow up together in freedom and equality without fear." But she warns that generous and appropriate assistance from the international community will be essential to help Namibians create that environment for their children — Academic File.

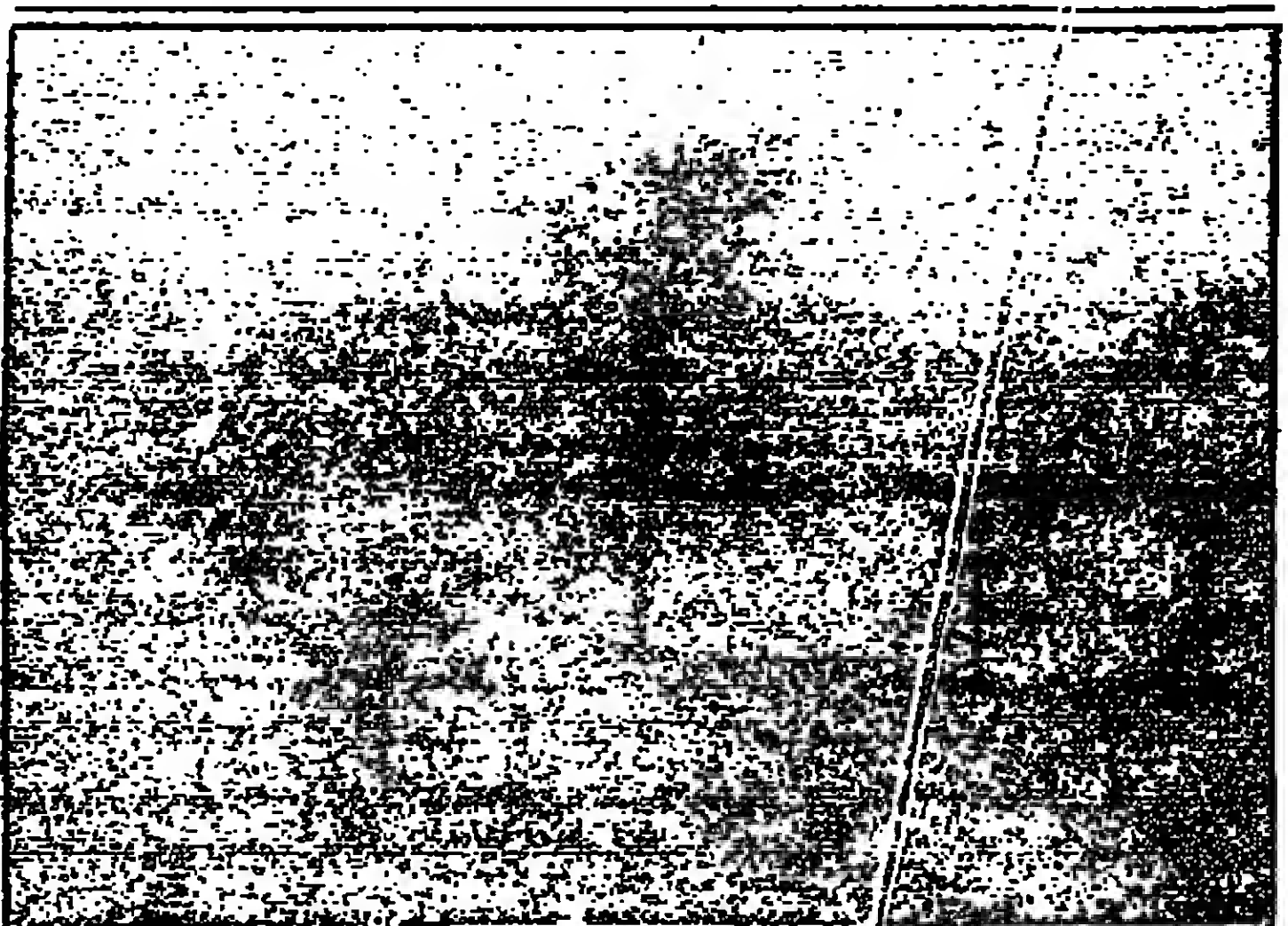
London shoppers unfazed by inflation

Everyone is talking or writing about it and the radio and television programmes are full of it, but where is Britain's cash crunch to be seen? Certainly not in the country's stores, where buying is as frenzied as ever.

By Shahriar Saeedvafa

LONDON — Hardly a day on air or in print passes without someone talking about it: Britain is in a cash crunch, encouraged by the

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson. Big spending is out, and frugal living is in. Or at least that's what the government would have Britons believe. The reality is somewhat different.



The crowded desert

For many centuries the people of the State of Rajasthan in Northern India have lived in uneasy balance with the Thar, the great Indian desert, but over the last 30 years that balance has begun to break down.

The increase in human and livestock numbers is placing unbearable demands on Rajasthan's semi-arid land with unchecked tree destruction, overgrazing and over-cultivation creating a wasteland and leading to more desertification.

Highlights these problems and shows how modern scientific methods are being used to halt the ever-encroaching desert and how one group are actually prospering by their Hindu beliefs in conservation.

The message of the film is clear — when combined with modern development, traditional systems of land management have a great deal to offer.

The Crowded Desert is a special documentary programme which will be presented on Channel 2 on Wednesday March 1, 1989 at 9:30 p.m.

rent. Despite successive interest-rate increases being slapped on borrowers, a Victorian-style haranguing of consumers over the excess of 'plastics' or credit cards in their pockets and tut-tutting of easy credit, Britons are in the midst of a buying spree that has not stopped with the end of the seasonal frenzy that annually marks Christmas and New Year's Eve. Large red banners in high street shops still announce sales alongside invitations to 'Borrow \$3,500 Now'.

Analysts believe the biggest holes in individual wallets are being made by the less publicised sales in ordinary high street stores that gross millions of pounds a year. It is however the more salubrious stores, like Harrods, that get all the publicity. A recent sale at Harrods opened with actor Tony Curtis in attendance. Naturally it made prime-time television.

But economists point out that while the big stores, like Harrods, Selfridges, House of Fraser, John Lewis, Liberty's and Harvey Nichols attract the well-heeled customers, "most of whom are likely to spend what they've got and not borrow," a veritable mountain of consumer debt is building up in Britain with the borrowing by middle-income and lower-income groups at smaller stores.

It's virtually impossible to estimate the total indebtedness of Britons, but several factors have increased the debt. A property boom over the past few years led to doubling or tripling of housing prices in London. Many homeowners responded by selling for quick access to cash, others got persuaded by lending agencies — banks, building societies and brokers — to turn their properties into "instant earners," as one advertisement put it, but borrowing against them.

The money thus obtained — tens of millions of pounds distributed over tens of thousands of

owners — was spent on buying virtually anything from yachts to digital video recorders, a new kitchen or a new car.

That was all up to autumn 1988. The free spending led to an overheating of the economy whose unpleasant glow is just beginning to be felt. The successive interest rates have turned the sweet ecstasy of heavily mortgaged property owners into nightmares. A recent report estimated that about 50 homes were being lost to lenders every week by borrowers unable to repay building society debts grossly overblown by higher interest rates.

Has the lesson been learnt, however? Economists are not certain that the present buying drive can be braked in time and disaster averted for thousands of families in the middle-income group. Britain, with a population

of about 60 million, has a per capita annual income of about \$9,000, comparable to that of Italy but lower than that of its immediate continental neighbours France and Germany.

"The shopping spree gives the false impression that suddenly many people are earning more than they ever did," said one economist. "While a handful may be earning more, no doubt, the majority is simply borrowing more, and that's not healthy at all."

Although Britain's manufacturing and exports have been picking up, the country's sales pitch abroad has been hurt significantly by the rise of the pound sterling against the dollar. At home the pound's rise has led to a noticeable drop in the influx of foreign shoppers, particularly those from the Middle East.

Shoppers from the Gulf region, already strapped for cash because of the fall in oil prices, have found Britain progressively expensive and chosen to go elsewhere, for example, Greece and Turkey, where the drachma and the lira respectively have remained relatively cheap.

However, a mild winter and the proximity of relatives or friends resident in London did draw out many Gulf visitors to the city during the holidays and inevitably to the shopping malls.

One visitor to Oxford Street, asked about his trip to the shopping area, said, "Before it used to be foreigners from all parts of the world converging on the stores. Now it's mostly Britons. I have never seen so many British people with shopping bags on Oxford Street." — Academic File.

Door To Door

Packing, Crating, Moving (House to House) Air, Sea, Overland Freight. Express Services. Local & International.

For any information. Please call Tel. 606723 / 681237 TLX: 21174 Fax: 606536 Amman / Jordan.



Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

THE PRINCIPAL

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 9:10

Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571

NO MAN'S LAND

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

SEEMS LIKE OLD TIMES

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

MOVING?
Let Aramex Air Cargo take care of the work, Door to Door. Call the friendly professionals on 660507 or 660508 **ARAMEX**

STUDIO HAIG
Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service. Develop your colour film at our shop and get:
• **JUMBO photo** 30% larger
• **Free enlarge** 20 x 30 cm
Stamcaran, Opp. Grindlays Bank, Phone: 604042, Subbaraj, Tel: 823891

RESTAURANT CHINA
The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan
1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahliyyah Girls School
Take away is available
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30-Midnight
Tel. 638968

慕堂餐廳 MANDARIN Chinese Restaurant
The only typical Chinese cuisine in Amman. Chinese Flaming pot is available. Take away available. Open daily 12:00-15:30 18:00-23:30
Wadi Saqra Road - near Traffic Bridge Amman, Jordan
Tel: 661922

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT
Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket
Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only
Tel: 818214
Come and taste our specialities
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30-Midnight

CHINESE RESTAURANT TAIWAN TOURISMO
Authentic Chinese Food
Korean Bar-B-Q Charcoal Flaming Pot
Take-away service
Open daily Noon - 3:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. - midnight
Location: Near 3rd Circle opposite Akliah Hospital
Tel: 641093

Hoshimi Restaurant
FIRST CLASS INDIAN RESTAURANT
Special Executive Lunches
Take away service available
Open daily 12:30-3:30 pm 7:30-11:30 pm
After the Holiday Inn hotel Towards 3rd circle
Tel: 659519 659520

KAJAR & SONS
Hamid Sharaf Street, Shmeisani, P.O. Box 7806, Amman, Jordan. Tel. 604676, 604696

Tokyo may allow Saudi Arabia to enter Japan retail oil market

ABU DHABI (R) — Saudi Arabian companies might soon be selling petrol at pumps in Japan, which hopes to secure its oil supplies by letting them into its retail market, industry sources in the Gulf have said.

Tokyo "is working on plans to let Saudi Arabia take shares in refining and marketing companies (in Japan) so that the supply of oil into the country in the 1990s is guaranteed," a senior executive of a Japanese oil company said.

Officials at Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said in Tokyo that Saudi Arabia and also Kuwait want to enter the retail market.

"We told them... MITI will not block such participation of foreign capital and we will... lift any restrictions," Yoshihiro Sakamoto, director-general of MITI's Petroleum Department, told Reuters in Tokyo.

Two thirds of Japan's daily imports of 3.3 million barrels of oil come from the Middle East. In the first eight months of last year Saudi Arabia supplied 14 per cent of Japan's oil and Kuwait 4.1 per cent. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) was the top supplier with 18.6 per cent.

"Saudi desires to penetrate Western consumer markets and Japan's plans to secure oil imports in the 1990s converge," an oil

industry executive in the Gulf said. "Japanese authorities think Saudi cuts in oil exports to Japan this year could be a signal by the kingdom to let them (into) downstream activities," an oil analyst said.

Saudi Arabia has cut output this year under an Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) quota pact.

Another Japanese oil executive said MITI might ask Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to extend a concession held by the Japanese-owned Arabian Oil Company (AOC) in the Neutral Zone operated by the two Gulf countries. Sakamoto said no talks on the

subject had been held. The AOC concession, in which Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have a 10 per cent share, is due to end in 10 years.

Last year Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest exporter, set up a joint venture with the U.S. oil company Texaco to refine and market oil products in 23 American states.

Saudi Arabia is in contact with some European companies, including Elf Aquitaine and Total-CFP of France, on possible joint refining and distribution ventures, oil industry sources said. Kuwait already has a network of petrol stations and refineries in Western Europe.

Indonesia announces measures to encourage exploration for oil

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia has announced new incentives to encourage the search for oil, the country's major export.

"Indonesia is continuing the policies it announced in August, giving more incentives to oil contractors with the aim of boosting exploration... especially in eastern Indonesia," Mines and Energy Minister Ginjar Kartasamita told reporters.

Most of Indonesia's oil is drilled by foreign companies under production-sharing contracts, with the state oil company Pertamina taking the larger portion.

Oil companies have criticised the amount they are allowed to keep for themselves as too little especially in frontier areas which

have not been explored for oil and where the risk of not finding oil is higher.

Ginjar said that new contracts in frontier fields will be split with 75 per cent in favour of Pertamina.

These contracts are currently based on an incremental system which gives the contractor a maximum share of 20 per cent if the well produces no more than 50,000 barrels per day.

The changes will give a bigger share for the company drilling the oil in areas which have already been explored. They also improve the returns in oil fields where the oil is harder and more costly to extract.

A significant change was to

allow oil companies with old contracts to sell at 10 per cent of the export price instead of at 20 cents a barrel, which should sharply increase their income.

The changes also provide for credits to explorers in some areas and extension of exploration contracts for four years.

Indonesia, the only Asian member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), estimates that at current exploration levels it would become a net oil importer in 25 years.

Late last year, the U.S. embassy said exploration was declining in Indonesia and foreign oil contractors were hit by then-falling oil prices, high tax payments and recovery costs.

Ginjar said he was optimistic the new incentives would boost exploration.

Pertamina President-Director Faisal Abda'oe said 10 new production sharing contracts would be announced soon. He gave no details.

National Westminster Bank doubles profits

LONDON (R) — Britain's biggest commercial bank, National Westminster (Natwest), has said it doubled pre-tax profits in 1988, overcoming a huge sum set aside in 1987 against doubtful Third World debt.

Lord Boardman, chairman of National Westminster Bank PLC, said the results showed "an impressive performance in particularly challenging market conditions."

The pre-tax profit figure of £1.4 billion (\$2.45 billion) was at the top end of broker forecasts and boosted Natwest shares on the London Stock Exchange.

Domestic banking continued to be the main source of earnings, chalking up £1 billion (\$1.75 billion) of pre-tax profits, a nine per cent increase over 1987.

Natwest chief executive Tom Frost said he was confident about profitability for 1989.

"The early indications... are satisfactory and the bank takes a confident view of prospects for the full year," he noted.

Natwest bounced back after re-

porting a disappointing £704 million (\$1.23 billion) pre-tax profit in 1987.

That year it set aside \$567 million (\$984 million) to cover Third World bad or doubtful debts.

In calendar 1988, it provided only £49 million (\$86 million) for potential bad debts.

International banking was the second main profit source in 1988, providing £280 million (\$490 million) against a previous loss of £339 million (\$593 million).

The bank suffered a £56 million (\$98 million) loss in investment banking, an area in which its County Natwest offshoot is under investigation.

Britain's Department of Trade and Industry is looking into suggestions that County Natwest did not disclose fully its role in supporting a rights issue of shares by the Blue Arrow employment agency in 1987. The issue flopped in the market.

Natwest blamed the investment banking loss on what it called depressed equity and capital markets around the world.

Venezuela suspends repayment of private sector's foreign debt

CARACAS (AP) — Venezuela has suspended capital payments on about \$5 billion in private-sector debt owed to creditor banks, mainly in the United States, according to a published report Thursday.

The decision, which affects \$472 million in principal due this year, was called "unprecedented" by the independent newspaper El Nacional.

There was no immediate official confirmation of the decision and the newspaper did not provide a source for the information.

Private-sector debt was being paid off in an eight-year period dating from 1986, at preferential rates granted by the Venezuelan government, one businessman said.

The decision would add to the suspension in January of capital repayments totalling more than \$20.4 billion owed by the public sector to foreign banks.

Venezuela's total foreign debt of \$33 billion is Latin America's fourth largest after Brazil, Mexico and Argentina. Venezuela recently began talks with its creditors to define new repayment terms.

Suspension of principal payments on both the private and public sectors' foreign debts

affects a total of \$2 billion due this year, the newspaper reported.

A representative for an international bank said the decision would "create real problems" for international bankers.

As of January 1987, the private sector's debt totalled \$4.97 billion. Capital payments for 1989 represented 9.5 per cent of that total, the newspaper said.

Venezuela's private-sector foreign debt had been paid off regularly over the past few years and the suspension ordered by the Social Democratic government implies a "radical change" in the nation's strategy with its creditors, according to El Nacional.

"Besides suspending amortisation on the private sector's debt, the government will demand this debt be granted the same treatment to be accorded for the public sector's debt," the report said.

That would represent a repayment period of 20 years, up from eight beginning in 1987, six to seven years of grace, and rescheduling of interest payments.

A greater problem, according to many business leaders, is what to do about some \$6.8 billion in letters of credit owed to financial institutions.

Louvre currency accord faces stiffest test

LONDON (R) — Two years ago in Paris, over a champagne dinner at the Louvre, financial leaders of the West's five richest nations called a halt to a 14-year experiment with freely floating exchange rates.

Since then the "Louvre accord", an ambitious attempt to coordinate economic policy, has survived the world stock markets crash of 1987 and curtailed wild currency swings that plagued the 1970s and the early years of the Reagan presidency.

But critics say finance ministers have failed in their goal of correcting world trade imbalances and promises to cooperate on fiscal policy remain largely unfulfilled.

A daily reminder is the intractable U.S. budget deficit and many economists believe 1989 will be a make-or-break year for cooperation. Doubts about the concept of targeting exchange rates, the core of the Louvre accord, are surfacing.

"Exchange rates were the easiest thing to target in 1987," said Paul Chertkow, chief international economist at brokers Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc. "It was an easy option and everyone thought everything else would fall into place. It didn't."

The Louvre accord was struck by finance ministers and central bank governors of the United States, Japan, France, Britain and West Germany over dinner on Feb. 21, 1987.

The next day's communiqué, also signed by Canada, spoke of cooperation to "foster stability of exchange rates around current levels," a form of words that disguised a secretly agreed system of targeting rates or "managed float."

It spelt the end of the era of freely floating exchange rates that followed the collapse in the early 1970s of the Bretton Woods and Smithsonian systems of fixed currency parities.

"There is little nostalgia for the Bretton Woods system of fixed rates," said Richard O'Brien, chief economist at American Express Bank. "Equally we are no longer under the illusion that free floating brings much benefit. A careful managed float is the order of the day."

Some economists disagree. Martin Feldstein, former presidential economic adviser to Ronald Reagan, said in December the dollar's value should be left to the market. "The time has come to abandon the policy of trying to

target the dollar."

The cost of targeting is considerable. Central banks have spent \$10 billion this year to stop the dollar rising.

The Group of Seven (G-7) nations now coordinating policy — the original six signatories of the Louvre accord plus Italy — stress their commitment to the Louvre strategy.

But the ground is shifting. "The idea of targeting exchange rates will not be publicly abandoned," said Chertkow. "But there has been some backtracking and the G-7 has moved to looking at other economic goals."

The accord is generally seen as having notched up successes: — The seven have held currencies relatively steady through intervention and closer coordination of monetary policy. The strategy stopped the dollar going into a free fall after a 1985 pact, the Plaza accord, succeeded in pushing the currency down.

— Currency stability has aided world growth and investment. Protectionism, rife in 1985 before Reagan abandoned his "hands off policy" towards the dollar, has abated.

— The Louvre accord has imposed discipline on G-7 nations, with the turning point coming with the crash of 87 when a public row between the United States and West Germany unnerved

markets. "The crash focused central bankers' and finance ministers' attention on policy cooperation rather than targeting exchange rates for their own sake," said David Morrison, chief international economist at Goldman Sachs International Ltd.

Economists argue some nations, particularly France and Britain, originally "put the cart before the horse" by targeting rates in an unpublished band of plus or minus five per cent.

Now there are increasing signs that G-7 nations are shying away from a more rigid or institutionalised system of target zones, emphasising instead broader policy coordination.

G-7 talks earlier this month gave the clearest sign yet of a shift as ministers stressed the priority of fighting inflation.

"The Louvre accord has changed," said Morrison. "There is a slight relegation of the need for exchange rate stability for its own sake and a move towards cooperative policy changes."

"If that proved to be successful, the result would in any case be less exchange rate instability," he noted.

The dollar was in fact trading last Friday at almost exactly the same level against the mark as on the eve of the accord.

"But that," says Chertkow, "is more luck than judgement."

Inflation threatens EC economic growth

BRUSSELS (R) — Rising inflation is threatening the European Community's (EC's) brisk economic growth, the bloc's executive commission has said.

The EC's economy is expected to grow by about three per cent annually over the next two years, but the trend was at risk from several factors, notably higher inflation, the commission said.

Henning Christophersen, European commissioner responsible for economic and financial affairs, told reporters that growth of about 3.3 per cent was within reach in the medium term.

But inflation was expected to reach a Community average of 4.25 per cent this year after 3.7 per cent in 1988.

Presenting the commission's economic outlook for 1989 and 1990, he said last year's 3.7 per

cent growth rate had been investment-led.

"(This) is the highest rate of growth for a long, long period. We expect similar rates for the coming years," he said, but noted last year the economy benefited from mild winters.

"Business life is adjusting to the fact that the single market will be implemented," he added, referring to the dismantling of internal trade barriers targeted for 1992.

Christophersen said strong economic growth had led to an increase in jobs. While 2.4 million jobs had been lost in the first half of this decade, the commission expected six million new jobs to be created from 1986 to 1990.

The EC's unemployment rate stood at 10 per cent at the end of last year.

Gulf investment company set for October launch

BAHRAIN (R) — Businessmen from seven Gulf Arab states plan to launch an investment company to channel private funds from the region into new industrial projects, a spokesman said Thursday.

Abdullah Al Moajil told reporters after a meeting of the proposed Gulf Company for Industrial Investment he hoped it would be floated on the Bahrain stock exchange by the end of October. The company will have a paid up capital of \$100 million.

Founding shareholders from Iraq and Gulf Cooperation Coun-

cil (GCC) states Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates would hold 40 per cent of the equity with 60 per cent to be sold to the public, he said.

The lowest founding shares will cost \$25,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for corporations. Bahrain's stock exchange is due to open in the first half of March.

Moajil, secretary-general of the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy, said projects under consideration for investment included polyurethane plants.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, Feb. 23, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	425.8	431.0
Pound Sterling	943.0	952.6	Dutch guilder	260.0	263.4
Deutsche mark	23.5	237.5	Swedish crown	36.6	36.4
Swiss franc	343.9	348.9	Italian lira (for 100)	39.8	40.4
French franc	86.1	87.1	Belgian franc (for 10)	140.0	141.9

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Feb. 18-22	Feb. 4-8
Daily average	JD 898,417	JD 2,691,491
Total volume	JD 4,492,088	JD 13,457,455
Total shares	2,171,671	6,833,766
No. of contracts	3,241	6,166
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 2,797,804 (62.3%)	JD 8,585,701 (63.8%)
Financial	JD 1,427,058 (31.8%)	JD 4,122,779 (30.6%)
Service	(4.3%)	(3.9%)
Insurance	(1.6%)	(1.7%)
Share price index	129.4	131.8
No. of companies	65	64
Price movement (rise)	22	22
(decline)	37	39
(stable)	6	3

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.755/65	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.965/75	Canadian dollar
	1.828/90	Deutsche mark
	2.063/40	Dutch guilder
	1.555/65	Swiss franc
	38.35/40	Belgian franc
	6.230/50	French franc
	1347/1348	Italian lire
	126.55/65	Japanese yen
	6.272/70	Swedish crown
	6.672/70	Norwegian crown
	7.112/70	Danish crown
One ounce of gold	389.10/389.60	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Australian shares had a listless day of largely options-related and professional trading. The All Ordinaries index gained 4.3 points to 1,485.3.

TOKYO — The Tokyo stock market was closed for the funeral of Emperor Hirohito. The Nikkei index stood at Thursday's close, a record 32,452.49.

HONG KONG — Share prices closed easier, having recouped most of Friday's losses in volatile trade that pushed the Hang Seng index briefly below 3,100 points. The index ended 11.03 points lower at 3,114.23.

SINGAPORE — The stock market finished an erratic session mostly lower after active trading. The Straits Times industrial index closed 0.76 of a point higher at 1,135.31.

BOMBAY — Share prices closed higher after a sedate start on expectations that next Tuesday's budget would contain incentives for industry. Tata Steel rose 25 rupees to 1,226.25 and Hindustan Aluminium 3.5 to 196.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended firmer, partially reversing the sharp declines of the previous two days. Thursday's Wall Street rise helped support prices. The DAX index rose 16.34 to 1,288.04.

ZURICH — Shares lost much of their earlier gains and closed little changed. The market was overshadowed by interest rate worries. The all-share Swiss index rose 0.2 to 969.9.

PARIS — Prices ended lower in despondent trade depressed by news of a rise in the U.S. Federal Reserve's discount rate, but ended 0.64.

LONDON — Shares were steady after falling from the afternoon highs on news of a half point hike in the U.S. discount rate. By 1548 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 7.3 points.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks, especially blue chips, fell back to session lows after a partial recovery amid futures-related selling. The Dow was down 32 at 2262 and declines overwhelmed gaining issues.

MANY VILLAS AND APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Furnished or Unfurnished
In Shmeisani, Sweifheh, Abdoun and many other locations.

For more information please call Wael Real Estate at 685342

*** WANTED ***

MAINTENANCE ENGINEER AND TECHNICIAN

A leading Jordanian computer company has vacant positions for: one Electronics Engineer and one Technician, for its maintenance/hardware department. Candidates must be Jordanian nationals with no military obligations.

Call 649760 for interview

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Te ICS has vacancies in September 1989 for the following positions:

- 2 infant teachers
- 2 junior teachers
- 1 music teacher

Applicants should hold full British teaching qualifications, or their equivalent, and have experience in a particular age group. Competitive local salaries are being offered together with other benefits.

Applicants should apply, in the first place to the Headmaster's Secretary. The closing date for applications will be Thursday March 2.

School telephone: 841070

CHANGE OF LOCATION

Lufthansa German Airlines is moving its Cargo Section from its location at the Intercontinental Hotel to the main offices at Shmeisani.

Kailani & Badran Building
2nd floor opposite La Terrace Rest.
P.O. Box 830454
Tel. 680728



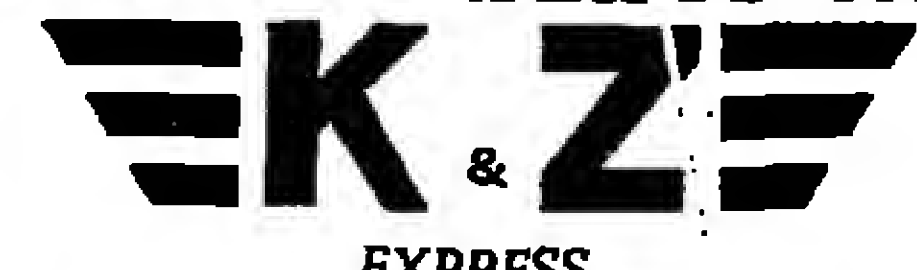
Lufthansa

FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

Located in Sweifheh and consisting of 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, salon, dining room, sitting room, telephone with independent garden and entrance. All services are independent, de-luxe furniture and modern building.

For more information please call tel: 810423, 813377.

KALBOUNEH BROS. Co.



EXPRESS

Packing - Storage - Crating - Shipping Services Ety Air-Sea-Land Door to Door

TEL: 641951 - 681952 TEL: 20308 - 22EXPR JO.
P.O. Box 2803 - Amman - Jordan FAX: 862-6-641952

FULLY FURNISHED FLAT

FOR RENT

Third floor, two-bedroom flat with coloured T.V., telephone and wall to wall carpeting. Parking for cars available and small supermarket on ground floor. Situated on main road, one mile north of Seventh Circle, Jabal Amman.

Suitable for expatriate couple. Available immediately.

Pis call tel. 810039.

Cheres Mesdames

A La Redoute, aura lieu un bazar le 27, 28 février et le 1er mars 89, de 10 hrs a 14 hrs et de 16 hrs a 19 hrs. Vetements feminins, bibelots bijoux... tout a vendre pour des prix de gros variant entre 10 fils et JD 10.000. Surtout n'oubliez pas notre nouvelle ligne de cosmétiques vanda. Venez deguster un jus et soyez les bienvenues. Vous ne regretterez pas.

(Mass Co.: Jabal-Amman - entre le 2^e et le 3^e cercle - en face de l'Hotel Intercontinental)

FOR COLLECTORS

<< For collectors of magazine issues of "Time" + "Newsweek" + "Fortune," a large stock is available for sale. Please call tel: 646092 >>

<< Les cours et documents d'accompagnement du Centre National de Tele-Enseignement classe: terminaux C-D au complet sont a vendre-priere contacter tel.: 646092 >>

DEAR LADIES

At La Redoute, a bazaar will be held on the 27th, 28th February and the 1st March 1989, from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. and from 4 p.m. till 7 p.m.

Ladies garments, gadgets, jewellery... all for sale at wholesale prices varying from 100 fils to JD 10.000. Above all do not forget our new line of cosmetics Vanda. Come and enjoy a welcome drink. You will not regret it.

(Mass Co.: Jabal-Amman - between the 2nd & 3rd Circles - opposite the Intercontinental Hotel)

Cavaliers beat Nets

NEW YORK (AP) — Ron Harper scored 13 points and Mark Price had 12 assists Wednesday night, and the Cavaliers went on to beat the New Jersey Nets 131-111 for their 19th straight home victory.

Cleveland, which improved its NBA-leading record to 40-12, scored the game's first eight points and was never threatened.

Mark Aguirre, making his first home start for Detroit, scored five of his 16 points in a key second-quarter run as the Pistons defeated the Portland Trail Blazers 105-94.

Aguirre, who was traded to the Pistons in a blockbuster deal with the Dallas Mavericks for Adrian Dantley a week ago, got a standing ovation from the sellout crowd of 21,454 at the Palace when he entered the game with four minutes remaining in the first quarter.

Michael Jordan scored 24 points and the Chicago Bulls hit 81 per cent of their shots in a 42-point first period before rolling to a 130-102 victory over the Charlotte Hornets.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

E. Germany beats Mali, pushes USA ahead

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — East Germany beat Mali 3-0 Wednesday in the final group C match at the World Youth Soccer Cup, and pushed the United States side into the quarter-final round. The half-time score was 1-0. The East German side's first win in the 16-team under-19 competition bounced Mali out of a place in the knock-out second stage. The United States joins Brazil, which already had qualified from group C after winning all its three matches.

Norway wins Nordic races

LAHTI, Finland (AP) — Norway won the Nordic combined team competition Friday at the World Nordic ski championships after two superb legs by the Eldon brothers in the final cross country relay. The Norwegian threesome of Trond Einar Elden, Trond Arne Bredesen and Bard Jorgen Elden finished one minute, 44 seconds ahead of Switzerland and 1:48 ahead of East Germany. The winning time was 1:24.7. The men's 4 x 10-kilometre cross country relay, one of the highlights of the championships, was scheduled later Friday. Trond Einar Elden, an 18-year-old student, became the fourth double gold medalist of the meet. He also won the individual Nordic combined crown. Marjo Matikainen and Marja-Liisa Kirvesniemi, both of the powerful Finnish cross country team, and ski jumper Jari Puikkonen of Finland are the other double champions.

Top Soviet basketballers may head West

LONDON (R) — Some top Soviet basketball players may head West after the defeat this week of Zalgiris Kaunas in the semifinal of the European Cup Winners' Cup. The biggest catch will be 2.20-metre centre Arvydas Sabonis, whose plea to fellow Olympic gold medalists to stay in his team prevented the Soviet club from breaking up last year. But now it seems certain that winger Rimas Kurtinaitis and playmaker Valdemaras Chomicius will head for Western Europe, with Sabonis moving closer to the professional ranks of the Portland Trail Blazers in America's National Basketball Association (NBA). The impetus will come from the extraordinary world congress of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), scheduled for April 7 in Munich. FIBA are expected to remove the ban on active NBA players competing in the Olympics and world championships, which would free Sabonis and players from other European countries to return to their national teams despite earning millions of dollars from the professional clubs.

Golf leader tipped off by his wife

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — American David De Long took a pointer from his wife Friday and went on to shoot a 2-under-par 70 and take a one-shot lead in the \$410,000 Australian tournament players' championship. De Long reached the halfway stage on 66-70-138, 6-under-par and a stroke ahead of pursuing Australian golfers Rodger Davis, Ian Baker-Finch and Jeff Woodland. Davis had a 67 Friday, while Baker-Finch and Woodland both shot 70s on the Riverside Oaks course. Tournament favourite Greg Norman carded his second successive 70 to trail De Long by two shots. He was one of five players on 140, along with overnight leader Roger Mackay of Australia and Swede Anders Gullner. De Long, a 29-year-old from San Francisco, bogeyed three holes on the back nine before his wife, Cheri, pointed out an error in his swing. He then birdied two of the last three holes to restore his confidence.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Put discipline in your work. Erect guidelines and set limits according to what is correct for you. Apply initiative ideas to a plan and gain expected results.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Encouraging news shows you where to capitalize on opportunities. Lively and attractive people seize your interest.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You see the pitfalls in a shaky money scheme and prepare to pull out. A meeting of hearts is reached with a loved one.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You feel lost and disorganized. Relax and enjoy family members who can pep you up. The later day has you in motion.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Enjoy good times. You are in the right place at the right time for a surprise. Overindulgence can cause trouble.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Personal relations and family interests are under pressure. Relax alone with personal pleasures that interest you. Avoid confrontations.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A journey can bring you closer to what you need. You connect with people who like you and can help. Evening hours may be tense.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Avoid travel mix-ups and delays. Be cautious to keep job enthusiasm up high. Shopping for hard-to-find items is favorable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A household/handyman project will meet with success. Tune in on opportunities for financial investments. Scan down travel plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) After some minor hassles are cleared up, it is a fun day with family and friends. Find a way to relax and relieve the tensions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) It is easy come, easy go today. Activities are your own choice. Satisfaction with family and friends is a pleasant interlude.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A short journey turns out to be more fun than expected. Put yourself where there is good food and camaraderie.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Curb the urge to spend money, except for what you need. Commit yourself to getting errands and work done early to make time for a recreation.

Becker romps, Agassi crawls into quarters

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Boris Becker wasted no time and Andre Agassi won a blistering baseline duel to advance to the quarter-finals of the \$602,500 U.S. pro indoor tennis championships Thursday.

The second-seeded Becker bulldozed his way past American David Pate 6-1, 6-1 in just an hour, while top seed Agassi was stretched by 15th-seeded fellow-American Jim Courier 6-3, 7-6.

Becker thoroughly dominated Pate. The West German lost only four points in the first five games as he pounded balls, especially from the backhand side, into the corners.

"I was right into the match and I kept the pressure on him," said Becker. "I was moving quicker and I was standing in on the ball."

Becker said he was feeling very fit and "keeping everything in perspective". He said he did not consider his loss to Sweden's Jonas Svensson in the fourth round of the Australian Open a setback.

"Svensson was just better on the day," said Becker. "It proved that I am beatable, but I never gave up fighting and kept trying. In the past I would get frustrated and let things go, but that was not the case in Melbourne."

Both Agassi and fellow 18-year-old Courier pounded the ball from the baseline with plenty of pace in a match full of excitement. Agassi needed seven match points to close the match after taking an early service break in the second set.

"I felt in charge because I was holding my serve easier," Agassi said. "I think that is why I could remain sane, because the longer the match went the more chance I had of winning."

Afterwards Agassi, who won the second set by 7-3 in the tiebreak, paid Courier quite a compliment.

He said Courier was the "most powerful player I have faced, more so than Ivan Lendl and Becker — but it was inexperience that stopped it from being even closer."

Two-time defending champion Tim Mayotte, the third seed, played his best tennis of the week to dispose of Milan Srejber of Czechoslovakia 6-3, 6-4, while fourth-seeded Mikael Pernfors of Sweden advanced by 6-1, 6-3 over Roger Smith of the Bahamas.

Two seeded players were eliminated in tough, three-set matches. Amos Mansdorf, seeded seventh, was beaten by 10th seed Christo Van Rensburg of South Africa 6-7, 6-4, 6-4 while sixth seed Kevin Curren was ousted by fellow-American Robert Seguso, seeded 11th, 6-3, 6-7, 7-5.

In the quarter-finals, Agassi plays eighth-seeded American Dan Goldie, while Becker takes on Van Rensburg. Mayotte meets fifth-seeded compatriot Brad Gilbert and Pernfors plays Seguso in the other quarter-finals.

Tyson favoured over Bruno

LAS VEGAS (R) — If looks counted for anything, the magnificently-muscular Frank Bruno would have a great chance of upsetting Mike Tyson for the undisputed heavyweight boxing title of the world Saturday.

Unfortunately for the Briton, his rather average ring skills do not match his physique and Tyson is a hot favourite beat Bruno in their scheduled 12-round fight.

The card at the 9,860-seat indoor arena at the Las Vegas Hilton also includes a 12-round World Boxing Council super-featherweight title fight between champion Azumah Nelson of Ghana and Mexican Mario Martinez.

Julian Jackson of the Virgin Islands will defend his World Boxing Association junior middleweight title against Brazilian Francisco De Jesus on the same card.

Tyson, expected to weigh about 98.89 kg Saturday to Bruno's 104.3 kg, is a 7-1 on favourite, with some fans saying the real bet is not if Tyson will knock out the

gentlemanly Bruno, but when.

Bruno is a 5-1 against chance. Tyson, 35-0, has stopped 17 opponents in the first round and five in the second round. Only four opponents have lasted the distance against the 22-year-old American — James Tillis, Mitch Green, Tony Tucker and James 'bonecrusher' Smith.

But Smith, dubbed 'bonebugger' by some people for hanging on to Tyson for 12 rounds in 1987, stopped Bruno in the 10th round in 1984.

Bruno, 32-2, says he has matured as a fighter since then and since Tim Witherspoon stopped the Briton in the 11th round in 1986.

That may be, but Bruno, 27, still appears to suffer from a lack of mobility, which has hampered many British heavyweights since Britain had its last heavyweight champion when in 1897 Bob Fitzsimmons knocked out James J. Corbett.

Even for a big man, Bruno is slow and in training sessions recently has had trouble landing his

jab against journeyman sparring partners. If Bruno is to keep Tyson away from him he has to rely on the jab with its 28-cm advantage in reach.

Bruno at 1.90m, is nine centimetres taller than Tyson. But the champion often has fought taller men without difficulty.

Bruno's trainer, Terry Lawless, likes to say that the proof of Bruno's power is that several of his sparring partners left camp because they could not take the pounding from his fighter.

But that claim is hardly supported by those witnessing Bruno's training sessions.

Tyson on the other hand has looked impressive in training. Both fighters may suffer from some ring rust. Tyson has not fought since last June and Bruno since October, 1987.

Bruno insists that "this is a peak time to beat Mike Tyson," with Lawless explaining that, Tyson's recent divorce, his feud with his manager and losing some 23 kg in a relatively short time may come back to haunt him in the fight.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND CHAR SHARIF
© 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A762 ♣ 952 ♦ K ♠ 10652
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl
What action do you take?
A.—Since East's double is primarily a takeout for the major suits, there is no point to showing your weak spade suit. And why venture two clubs? Although you have the values for one no trump, your hand is unbalanced, so all you can do is pass to see how the auction develops.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AQ ♠ A762 ♦ 73 ♣ 9
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—This is borderline. If you have a partner who might drop the bid in two hearts, jump to three. However, if partner can be trusted to bid again, then two hearts is sufficient—your queen of clubs is of doubtful value.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AQ ♠ A762 ♦ 73 ♣ 9
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—The fact that your queen is now in partner's suit makes a world of difference—it is probably worth a full trick. Now, a jump to three hearts (or a reverse bid of two spades, if you like the fancy stuff) is clear cut.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 762 ♠ AQ6 ♦ 95 ♠ A1092
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Not an ideal hand, but who promised you that life would be a bowl of cherries? Double, despite the fact that you lack a fourth heart. Ideally, you hope partner will pass or bid three no trump. Should he bid four hearts, pass and hope for the best. At least the spade ruffs will come in the hand with short trumps.

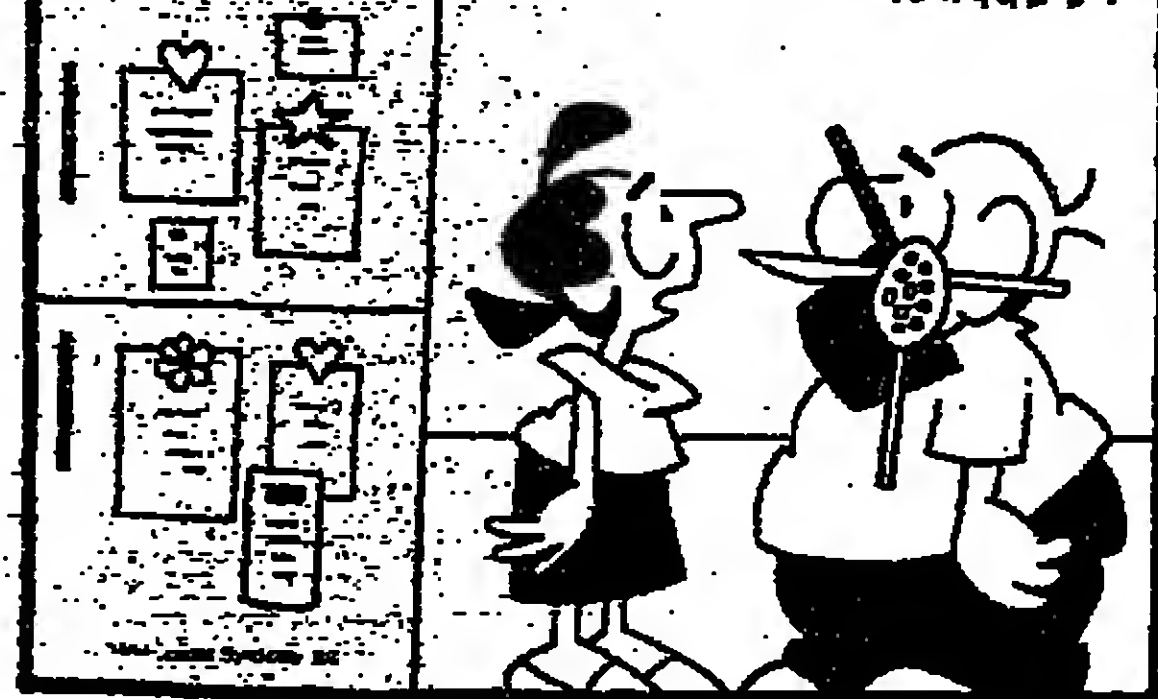
Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ KQ5 ♠ AQ ♠ AQK1067 ♠ 63
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Dbl Pass 2 ♣
Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—We suppose that the theoretically correct bid is a jump to three diamonds. However, if you are going to play for nine tricks, why not at no trump? There is no guarantee that you can make three no trump, but it's certainly worth a shot—especially since you're likely to get a heart lead.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 6 ♠ A105 ♠ AQ ♠ AQJ762
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with three spades. What action do you take?
A.—Not an ideal hand, but who promised you that life would be a bowl of cherries? Double, despite the fact that you lack a fourth heart. Ideally, you hope partner will pass or bid three no trump. Should he bid four hearts, pass and hope for the best. At least the spade ruffs will come in the hand with short trumps.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

HARRIS 3-1



"You spend so much time near the refrigerator, all of your fillings are magnetized!"

JUMBLE

that SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles: one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TELU
GUFED
SIPVLE
PRUBES

WHAT A GOOD INSECTICIDE MIGHT BE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A "COCO" (Answers Monday)

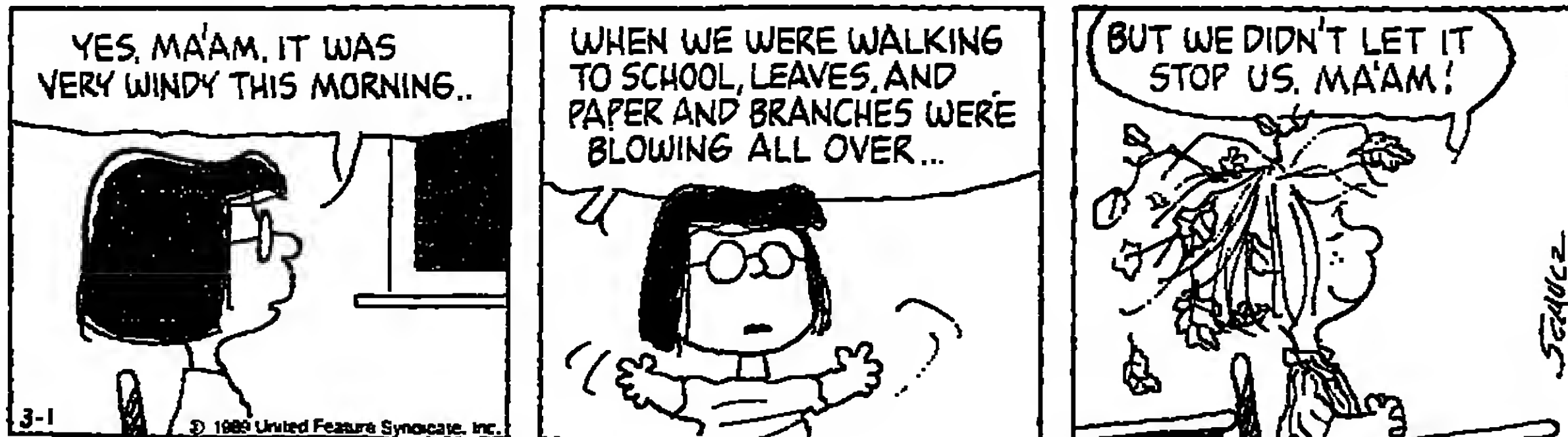
Yesterday's: Jumble: TRYST: DUCAL BRIDLE: HANGAR
Answer: He's old enough to know better, but too old to do it—CAFE

THE Daily Crossword by Bernard Moren

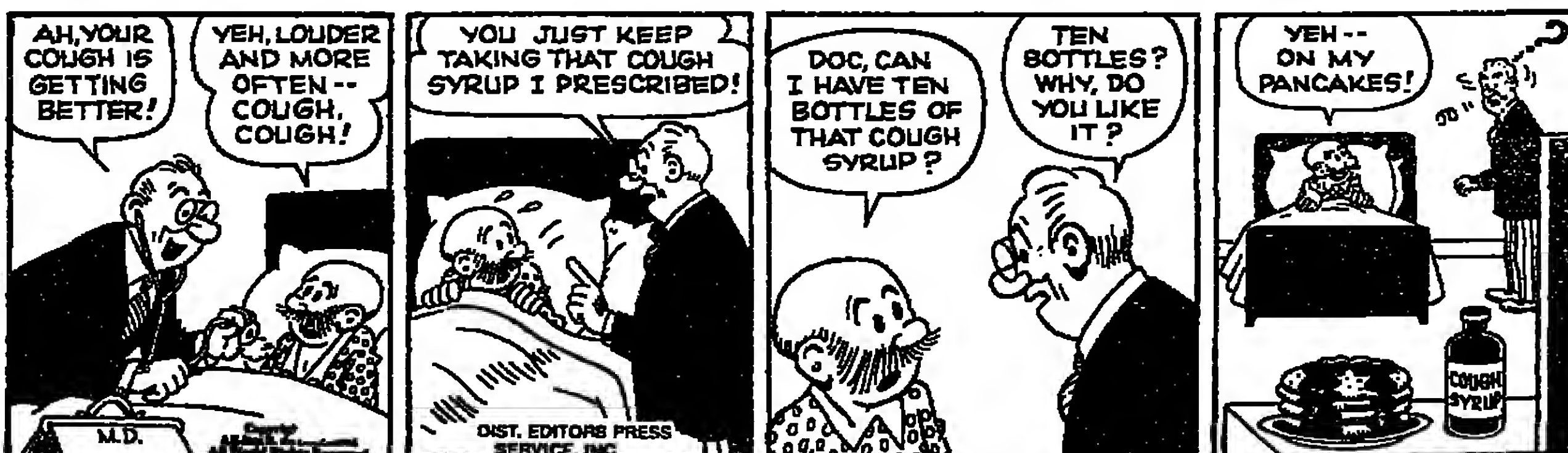
ACROSS
1. Housewife
3. Down
10. Pack down
14. Virtually assured
15. Feeding lot
16. Motion
17. Pecan
18. Fast manners
20. Heavy burden
22. Dogma
23. Miss, motto
24. Mountain ridge
25. Seak. Fax
27. Feed ink. Rems
28. Tyrod
32. Delta of song
34. Lowers in milk
35. Holiness
36. Motionless
38. Tort. less
42. Disloyal
44. Flavored chicken
45. Assistant
47. Acquire
50. Come back
51. Capt. Hook's aide
52. A. Singer
56. Monotonous routine
58. Actor from Cardiff, Eng.
60. Moon
61. In the back
62. Encumber
63. Snow or Woody
64. City on the Tiber
65. Sings up
66. Bean

DOWN
1. Gadabout
2. Straight
3. Certain
4. Cause to an agreement
5. School. Fr.
6. Eaten
7. Deep regret
8. Expresses a thought
9. Struck out
10. Fork part
11. Yemen city
12. Only
13. History
19. Possessive
21. N. Mex. resort
22. Inhabitant
27. majesty
28. Ship weights
29. Caravan plants
30. Atmosphere: part.
31. Alphabet run
33. Ship
35. Temperate
36. Shoal
37. Rattle hind
38. Half a fly
41. Cause to an agreement
42. Woods
43. — Kurenska
44. Kleis
45. Small hall
46. Moon goddess
50. Ad —
51. Grit
52. Not quite short
53. Kimono
54. At that time
55. — China
56. Ad —
57. Kind of race
58. — Yankee
59. Doodle —

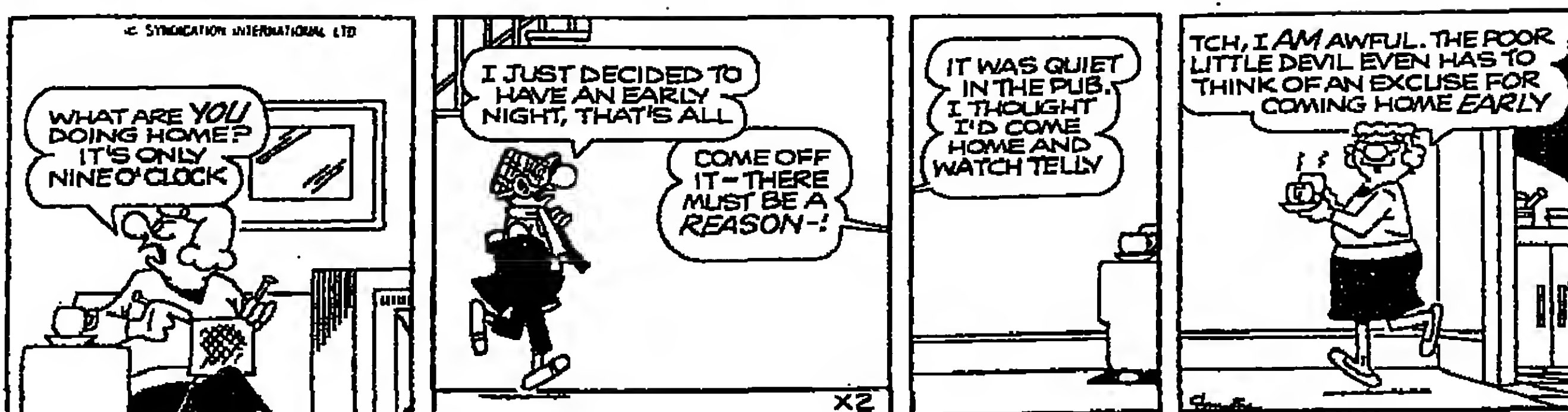
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp





Police remove "evidence" from the home of Winnie Mandela after raid this week

Community leaders fear more violence in Soweto

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Black South African community leaders called Friday for an end to a tit-for-tat murder campaign among Soweto township gangs following the fall from grace of Winnie Mandela and her band of bodyguards.

Soweto has recently witnessed three murders, a firebomb attack and a campaign of abduction and assault, all thought to be linked to the allegations of murder and gang violence laid against Mandela's bodyguards, the Mandela United Football Club.

Two club members were charged Tuesday with the murder last month of a black child activist, Stompie Seipei, causing a deep rift between Mandela, wife

of jailed nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, and the rest of the black community.

"Blacks are sick and tired of this violence. They don't want it. They are saying this openly to us," said John Gogotya, leader of the Federal Independent Black Alliance, a group in favour of negotiation with the white government.

"I hope that most of our people will be able to see that this violence does not pay, that violence begets violence," Gogotya said.

Professor Fatima Meer, a close Mandela family friend, said it was time to call a halt to the increasing spiral of violence.

Referring to the first

anniversary Friday of a sweeping government ban on the activities of South Africa's anti-apartheid protest movement, she said the occasion should be marked with more than idle words.

"The time for reconciliation is long overdue. We don't want to kill each other all year and then say, 'It's the first anniversary, we should reconcile,'" Meer said.

On Feb. 24 last year, the Pretoria government effectively banned 18 leading anti-apartheid organisations and later restricted a further 16.

Meer said the burgeoning Soweto vendetta would be difficult to resolve in the near future. "Everybody is worried about what is going on. It's terrible."

India pledges \$50m to U.S. atom project

WASHINGTON (AP) — India has agreed to make a \$50 million contribution toward the U.S. super collider atom smasher, the first foreign country to commit to helping the \$4.6-billion project, according to a U.S. lawmaker.

Robert Hunter Junior, director of the Office of Energy Research at the Energy Department, said Thursday the agreement with India calls for an "in kind" contribution, meaning it will come in the form of equipment or services. It is contingent upon a U.S. commitment to build the collider, Hunter said.

Congressman Joe Barton, speaking to a subcommittee of the House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space and Technology, said that in addition to India's pledge of help, Japan, Taiwan, Korea and several Western European nations have held preliminary cost-sharing discussions with U.S. officials.

Barton represents the district that includes the planned collider site.

Last year, Italy signed an agreement to explore collaboration on the project. India is the first country to make a commitment.

President George Bush has endorsed the super collider and recommended spending \$250 million in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 toward initial construction.

The Energy Department has chosen a site around Waxahatchie, Texas, for the 85-kilometre underground tunnel in which beams of protons would smash into each other with 20 times the energy of today's most powerful atomic accelerators.

Faced with heavy demands for funds for science projects, Congress last year agreed only to spend \$100 million on the project in the current fiscal year and decreed none of the money could be used for construction.

Hunter said "several hundred million dollars" is a minimum estimate for foreign contributions of particle-collision detectors to the project, but the exact sum won't be known for another year or two.

Though Hunter said foreign contributions could be substantial, he did not repeat predictions of department officials about a year ago that foreign countries could pay up to half the cost of the machine.

Such large installations are used by scientists of all nations and foreign contributions are usually made to speed a project along, not in return for specific agreements for research time, said department spokesman Jeff Sherwood.

The project still faces hurdles in Congress, which must provide substantial funds for construction this year if the collider is to operate in 1986, as the department would like.

Tower ruling clouds Bush trip

TOKYO (R) — President Bush vowed Friday to stand behind the troubled nomination of John Tower as defence secretary, and predicted the Senate would ultimately confirm the former senator.

"I'm going to win this battle," Bush told reporters following a Senate Armed Services Committee vote rejecting Tower's nomination.

"I'm going to strongly back Senator Tower and I don't believe he is going down the drain," the president said.

Bush, who is in Tokyo for the funeral of Japanese Emperor Hirohito, said he was not considering alternatives to Tower as defence secretary.

"I have not considered any options and I stand strongly with John Tower," the president said. The Senate committee, which has been reviewing charges re-

garding Tower's drinking habits, love life and ties to defence contractors, voted 11-to-9 against confirming Tower.

The committee split along party lines with all 11 Democrats urging the Senate to reject Tower and all nine of Bush's fellow Republicans recommending his confirmation.

Committee Chairman Sam Nunn, a Georgia Democrat, said he opposed Tower because of concern over excessive drinking by his former colleague.

Nunn, who succeeded Tower as chairman of the Armed Services Committee, said it would be dangerous for a heavy drinker to have authority over military forces.

Bush dismissed the charges against Tower as rumour and innuendo that have been knocked down by a Federal Bureau of Investigation report.

He voiced confidence that he could win Democratic support in the Senate, which planned to take up the nomination next Wednesday.

The Democrats hold a 55-45 majority in the Senate. Bush would need to win five Democratic votes and hold all of the Senate Republicans to gain approval for Tower. Vice-president Dan Quayle would cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie.

If rejected by the Senate, Tower would be the first cabinet nominee turned down by the lawmakers since the 1959 defeat of President Dwight Eisenhower's choice of Lewis Strauss to be secretary of commerce.

Bush said the fight over Tower did not signal the end of the "honeymoon" traditionally accorded new presidents. "I'm not going to get total agreement on every issue," he said.

'Don't Worry, Be Happy' a big hit at Grammy Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tracy Chapman, a quiet newcomer who brought a disquieting reality to the pop charts with her debut album, won three Grammy Awards Wednesday night — but the record and song of the year was Bobby McFerrin's ebullient "Don't Worry, Be Happy."

McFerrin, whose voice and body are his only instruments, was the night's big winner with four of the coveted miniature gramophone trophies. He also won male jazz vocal performance for the song "Brothers."

Both big winners lost to George Michael for album of the year. He won for his platinum "Faith," a blend of ballads, rock and soulful pop, including the hit single "I Want Your Sex."

The British vocalist was the

first white solo artist to top bill-board's black charts, with "Faith," which sold more than 12 million copies in its first year of release.

The album "Tracy Chapman," ranging from folk to pop ballad to reggae, has sold more than four million copies for the 24-year-old singer-songwriter who looks uncompromisingly at poverty, racism, inequality and human rights. A year ago, she was singing in small Boston clubs while studying anthropology.

She won the female pop vocal category for her song "Fast Car," which tells of a high school dropout who supports her alcoholic father and wants to escape her misery in a fast car with her unemployed boyfriend. She also was named best new artist and

best contemporary folk performer.

In a new category, hard rock-metal vocal or instrumental, the venerable British rockers Jethro Tull won for "Crest of a Knife."

Jazz singer Anita Baker took two rhythm-and-blues trophies at the 31st annual Grammy Awards ceremonies at the Shrine Auditorium.

Neil Dorfsman was named producer of the year for Sting's album, "...Nothing Like the Sun."

In country music, Randy Travis won best male vocal with "Old 8 X 10" and K.T. Oslin won female vocal honours for "Hold Me," which was voted best country song. The mother-daughter duo the Judds won best country group for "Give a Little Love."

Rushdie book sparks more violence; 10 killed in India

NICOSIA (R) — Indian police shot dead ten Muslims protesting against Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses" Friday in the worst violence since Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ordered the assassination of the British novelist.

The shootings in Bombay came just hours before Iran's parliamentary speaker declared that his country would not be held responsible if a Muslim killed Rushdie.

Police said they opened fire after crowds attempting to march on the British Deputy High Commission began stoning cars and buses.

At least ten people were killed and 40 wounded, hospital sources said. Police had earlier banned the march and arrested 500 people in Bombay to prevent disturbances during Friday prayers.

The protest was organised by the little-known Muslim integration group, one of numerous Islamic groups around the world which have denounced Rushdie's book as blasphemous.

Muslim anger over "The Satanic Verses" has been particularly strong in Bombay, where Rushdie was born into an Indian Muslim family. The Indian government was among the first to ban

the book. Khomeini's first execution call Feb. 14 was backed Friday by Syed Abdullah Bukhari, the most powerful of India's 100 million Muslims.

"I congratulate the Imam Khomeini. No leniency should be shown to him (Rushdie)," he told worshippers in the Jama Masjid Mosque.

A Saudi Arabian-owned newspaper said Friday the Mecca-based Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO) would file unspecified charges against Rushdie in Britain. Officials of the 46-member ICO were not immediately available for comment.

In Tehran, Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who is viewed as a moderate, distanced the Iranian state from any act individuals might take against the novelist.

"If any Muslim carried out his duty, this cannot have any link with the Islamic Republic of Iran," the official news agency

IRNA quoted him as saying in a Friday sermon.

His remark appeared to be an attempt to separate the row over the book from relations with Western countries.

But Rafsanjani also defended the death threat. He called on Western leaders to state clearly whether they backed the content of Rushdie novel, which he said "slanders sanctities of Islam and attacks the Koran and the exalted Prophet."

Rafsanjani rejected Western criticism of the death order, saying it was neither against freedom of expression nor interference in the internal affairs of another country.

One of the passages in the book which Muslims most object to is a dream sequence in which prostitutes take on the names of Prophet Mohammed's wives.

Rafsanjani suggested Western nations would not tolerate similar language to describe the private lives of their leaders. "If an Iranian author in our country came from any act individuals might take against the novelist."

Rushdie, 41, remains in hiding under police guard in Britain.

While many Western nations have denounced Khomeini's death call and withdrawn diplomats from Tehran in protest, other non-Muslim countries have been less inclined to act.

Japan Friday resisted British pressure to recall its ambassador from Iran. Foreign Minister Susuke Uno turned down the idea during a meeting with his British counterpart, Sir Geoffrey Howe. But Uno did say Japan could not accept Khomeini's assassination call.

Meanwhile Home Secretary Douglas Hurd warned Britain's 750,000 Muslims Friday they could trigger a racial backlash if they supported death threats against the author.

"The vast majority of British Muslims are hard-working, law-abiding men and women," Hurd said. "Nothing would do more damage to racial harmony... in the country as a whole than the idea that British Muslims are indifferent to the rule of law."

In a speech prepared for delivery in Birmingham's Central Mosque, he acknowledged that Muslims in Britain had been hurt by Rushdie's book but said opposition to the novel must remain lawful.

Colombo to ask India to leave

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka said it would ask Indian forces to leave the island in about six months when police were strong enough to protect people from Tamil guerrillas.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne made the announcement as military sources reported Tamil and Sinhalese guerrillas had killed 12 people in the past 24 hours.

Indian troops have been deployed in the north and east under an agreement signed in 1987 between Colombo and Delhi aimed at ending a separatist revolt by the Tamil minority community.

Wijeratne, who is also foreign minister, added he would seek popular support for action against leftwing Sinhalese rebels blamed for most of the violence in the south.

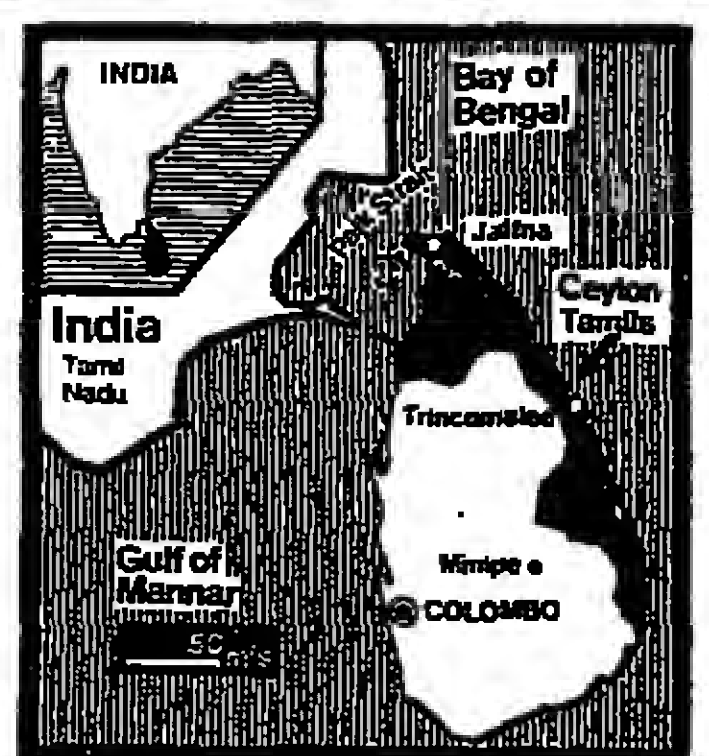
Wijeratne told a news conference that the withdrawal of the Indian forces would be speeded up when a recently created provincial council in the north-east was able to protect ordinary people from Tamil guerrillas.

He said the council would need about another six months to build up an adequate police force.

"We do not intend to be foolish just to satisfy the whims of a few individuals, Sinhalese and Tamil extremists, who want the Indians to go," Wijeratne said.

"The Indian forces will go when President (Ranasinghe) Premadasa asks them to go. That is the agreement," he said.

Forty-five thousand Indian troops are deployed to combat an



armed campaign by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to set up an independent homeland. LTTE guerrillas raided a Sinhalese village Wednesday night, shot dead six people and then set fire to their homes with the bodies inside, military sources said.

Ten villagers were wounded in the attack on Wel Oya village in the north-central province.

Six people, all political activists, were killed in attacks in the south blamed on the People's Liberation Front.

The authorities have accused the front, composed of members of the majority Sinhalese community, of violence in the past six months aimed at disrupting the December presidential poll and last week's general election.

Police estimate that more than 1,500 people were killed in political violence since mid last year. Most of the killings have been blamed on the front.

Information Minister W.J.M. Lokubandara told reporters Thursday police had been alerted following information that subversives were planning to disrupt the country-wide general certificate of education examination to be taken by more than 500,000 children beginning Friday.

Captain found guilty in cannibalism trial

SUBIC NAVAL BASE, Philippines (AP) — A military jury Friday sentenced Captain Alexander Balian to a reprimand after convicting him of failing to help a boatload of Vietnamese refugees who later resorted to cannibalism to survive.

Balian, 48, of Los Angeles, claimed he had been made a scapegoat by an embarrassed navy command.

The jury of six navy captains acquitted Balian, former skipper of the amphibious landing ship USS Dubuque, of ordering one refugee shaken off ropes as he tried to climb aboard his vessel June 9 in the South China Sea.

Balian, a highly decorated Vietnam war veteran, could have been confined for three months and ordered to forfeit two-thirds of his pay for that period.

The jury deliberated nearly six hours Thursday and Friday before returning a verdict at 9:20 a.m. (0120 GMT). The panel decided on the sentence after a half hour deliberation. Under military law, convictions and acquittals are automatically reviewed.

Balian was accused of failing to render adequate assistance to more than 80 Vietnamese boat people when his ship encountered them June 9 in the South China Sea, 370 kilometres north of the Philippine island of Palawan.

U.N. officials said 31 of the Vietnamese died after encountering the Dubuque. Survivors said they devoured the dead to survive before Filipino fishermen rescued them June 27.

The jury found Balian guilty of dereliction of duty for failing to

conduct an adequate inspection of the refugee boat; determine whether their sail was adequate; conduct appropriate medical examinations of visibly dehydrated refugees; provide necessary navigational equipment; provide adequate water and clothing to the naked, and take refugees aboard or see to it that they were taken aboard or assisted by a navy supply ship in the area.

Balian was acquitted of charges that he ordered the Dubuque's crew to shake off a refugee who tried to climb aboard the warship. On Feb. 16, Balian was acquitted of a third charge — failing to render assistance to a Vietnamese who drowned.

The prosecution claimed Balian abandoned the refugees in his rush to resume his voyage to the Gulf, where the Dubuque took part in U.S. navy security operations during the final days of the Iran-Iraq war.

The defence argued that Balian was under pressure from his commanders to reach the Gulf on schedule.

Balian testified he did not pick up the refugees because he did not realise how desperate their situation was. Balian also testified that he believed the vessel was seaworthy based on reports from the ship's executive officer, Lieutenant Commander Stanley Halter.

After the sentence, Balian told reporters he accepted command responsibility for his decision but that the navy investigation was unfair. He said an initial investigation cleared him of wrongdoing.

Column 100000

Atheists want Bible-free rooms

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — A group of atheists and agnostics is asking major hotel chains to supply them with rooms lacking the customary Bibles, saying the Bible makes for "groesque bedtime reading." "Why should innocent people go into a hotel room with an open Bible that is instructing you to kill homosexuals, to kill blasphemers," said Annie L. Gaylor, editor of FreeThought Today, the newsletter of a group called the Freedom of Religion Foundation. Gaylor said her group has written to a dozen hotel chains, including Memphis-based Holiday Inns, asking for Bible-free rooms for atheists and agnostics. "We're asking for freedom from the Bible. We're not saying they can't offer the Bible to their other customers," she said Wednesday from her office in Madison, Wisconsin. Ralph Berry, a spokesman for the Holiday Corporation, said the Bibles at Holiday Inns are supplied by Gideons International, a Christian organisation, and are there to be read or not read as hotel guests prefer.

Hold that tiger

SYDNEY (AP) — A trapeze artist grabbed a tiger by the tail and didn't let go after the big cat mauled its handler and tried to leap into a crowd to terrified circus fans. Hundreds of screaming spectators fled when the big cat escaped during a show Wednesday night by the National Circus at Moruya, about 255 kilometres south of Sydney. Trapeze artist David Wynn, 21, said he rushed to the rescue when he heard the yells of the crowd and saw the Bengal tiger biting the leg of its keeper, Brett Hall. "The crowd was screaming and I could see Brett lying on the ground with the tiger holding onto him," he told the Channel 10 television network. "I went to grab the tiger but it scratched me on the arm — so I turned around and grabbed his tail and pulled him. I got the tiger off the first time, but he went straight back at him," he said. "I grabbed the tiger again, spun him around and then fell over. I started to wrestle him and dragged him until I managed to jam him between a tent pole and the cage. The five-year-old tiger, named Moscow, was put back in its cage and the show continued."

Dutch army scraps rules

THE HAGUE (R) — Dutch recruits will be allowed to sport earrings and wear their hair any length they want following parliamentary approval Wednesday to scrap scores of military regulations. Parliament approved a defence ministry plan to revamp the military legal system and reduce disciplinary measures for the country's 43,000 conscripts. The Netherlands has long been known for its relaxed attitude towards discipline.

Police stop thieves with oranges

ROME (R) — An off-duty Italian policeman stopped two men running off with a woman's handbag in a crowded, noisy market by pelting them with oranges. Unable to reach the thieves or shout above the stallholders in Rome's main street market, Giovanni Murino grabbed the fruit from his wife's shopping basket. Bystanders alerted by the bombardment then held on to the men until they were arrested in Wednesday's incident, police said.

Tomb robber sentenced

PEKING (AP) — A court in western China has given a suspended death sentence to the leader of a gang of tomb robbers, the official Xinhua news agency says. The Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous region court upheld a lower court death sentence for Yang Xionglin for encouraging peasants in the Turfan area to rob 86 tombs from the spring and autumn warring states period (770-221 B.C.). But the high court said the sentence would be converted to life imprisonment as long as the prisoner demonstrated repentance over the next two years. Xinhua reported Friday that the peasants sold 90 stolen cultural relics to Yang. The relics individually command prices of thousands of dollars when smuggled to antique markets in Hong Kong and other foreign countries. The Chinese government in recent years has tried to crack down on lucrative smuggling operations in antiquities and other cultural treasures.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Bonn tries to cut refugee flow

BONN (R) — West German Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann proposed tightening entry rules in a bid to stem the flood of refugees into West Germany. Zimmermann told parliament Wednesday he would put proposals before the next cabinet meeting March 1 for the introduction of visas for Yugoslavs. Visa conditions for Poles would be tightened. Air transit passengers from Turkey would be required to show a residence permit or a visa for a European Community (EC) country, Canada or the United States. Visas would also be introduced for 14 Asian, African and South American states, including South Africa, the Philippines, Thailand and Uganda. West Germany's constitution allows anyone seeking political asylum to remain in the country while his application is processed. Cases often take years to resolve.

Mother kills baby to escape husband

PEKING (R) — A Chinese mother strangled her three-month-old daughter so she could divorce a ferocious husband to whom she had been sold after he raped her, the Farmers daily said Friday. The newspaper said "a tragedy that should never have happened" began when 21-year-old Li Xia's father decided to sell her for 1,500 yuan (\$405) to a rich, playboy neighbour in their remote village in Gansu, west China. She tried to run away but her father stopped her and locked her up. Then he held Li Xia down on her bed so the neighbour could rape her, leaving her no alternative but marriage. About a year later she gave birth to a girl, enraging her husband and in-laws who wanted a boy. After many beatings, she resolved on divorce but courts would not grant one while her child was less than a year old. The newspaper said that when police arrested Li Xia, tears poured down her face and she sobbed with grief and remorse.

Austria crash kills 11

VIENNA (AP) — Eleven people, including Austria's minister of social affairs, Alfred Dallinger, were killed Thursday when their plane crashed into a lake near the Swiss-Austrian border, investigators and aviation officials said. Dozens of rescue helicopters, boats and two submarines rushed to lake Constance. Around 6 p.m. (1700 GMT), seven hours after the crash, the plane was located some 80 metres below the surface, about one kilometre from the shore. It was scheduled to be lifted from the bottom of the lake Friday if bad weather doesn't delay operations, said Waldemar Marquart, a Swiss investigating judge who was interviewed on Austrian television. He said all nine passengers and two crew members aboard had been killed. A previously unknown group calling itself the Austrian People's Army claimed

responsibility for the crash in a telephone call to the West German news agency DPA.

Peace day in N. Ireland

BELFAST (AP) — Thousands of Protestants and Roman Catholics attended peace day rallies across the province Thursday and expressed hope for an end to terrorism in Northern Ireland. Church bells pealed in many towns to support peace day, which was organised by Belfast City Council members from four political parties and a group called Women Together to Bring Peace to Northern Ireland. In a joint statement, they said they placed on record their "full solidarity" for the day of peace and the elimination of all terrorist activity from Northern Ireland. Some 4,000 people gathered in front of city hall in Belfast, many wearing white badges. Rallies were also held in Londonderry, Enniskillen, Lurgan, Banbridge, Bangor, Greenisland, and Whitehead.

Pakistan to launch satellite

KARACHI (R) — Pakistan will launch its first satellite, Badr-A, next year at an altitude of 400 kilometres, Radio Pakistan said Friday. It quoted Salim Mahmud, chairman of Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) as saying the satellite would transmit communications to low-cost tracing ground stations in the country. Pakistan said last week it had produced its first shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile, with a range of up to 5,000 metres. Pakistan has also successfully test-fired its first long-range rockets.

Pacific nation sells passports

MAJURO, Marshall Islands (R) — Foreigners will be allowed to buy citizenship of this central Pacific nation for \$250,000 under a law passed this week. Officials said the measure was intended to make money for the government and was directed primarily at Asian investors. Tony Debrum, one of only two legislators who voted against the bill, said the price tag was "nothing for terrorists who could buy the passport and do what they want with it." The Marshall Islands, with a population of 43,000, has issued its own passports only for two years. It attained semi-independent status of "free association" with the United States in 1986.

Indonesian floods kill 3

JAKARTA (AP) — Rain-triggered floods during the last three days have left three people dead, 30 others injured and some 15,000 homeless in central Java, an Indonesian government official said Friday.